WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

2027 Rules for Exhibit Competition

The WAERT offers students a variety of opportunities to deepen their understanding of radiologic sciences. It's essential for future professionals to actively pursue educational experiences that enhance patient care and image quality while adhering to ALARA principles.

Available Activities

Students may participate in the following categories:

- **Essay** – Students write an original essay - may be selected for presentation at the symposium.
- **Scientific Exhibit** – A scientific display with 1-2 objectives used to explore or debate a medical topic. Written and visual materials placed on **one** formatted power point slide – similar to a tri-fold presentation board. A second slide is used for references only.
- **Computer Exhibit** – A PowerPoint® presentation with several slides; narration optional.
- **Video Exhibit** – An original, student produced video.

Each category has specific rules outlined below the general rules.

General Rules

- **Eligibility**
  Open to students graduating in 2027 who are attending the WAERT Spring Symposium.

- **Awards**
  1st–3rd place winners in each category receive monetary prizes. For group projects, one student will receive the award and distribute it among team members. In the event of a tie, a tie-breaker system will be applied. If there is only **one entry in a category**, the exhibit must meet a minimum point requirement to receive an award.

- **Recognition**
  All participants will be recognized with a merit badge displayed with their name badge. Merit badges can be kept, but name badges are recycled at the end of symposium.

- **Subject Matter**
  All exhibits must relate to the Imaging Sciences. Participants should review category-specific rules for more details.

- **Confidentiality**
  All visuals must be high quality and properly cited. Exhibits must not contain identifying information, including the names of students, educational programs, clinical sites, hospitals, or patients. Images created for demonstration purposes should be labeled with a generic identifier such as *"Test Image."* Editing comments or tracked changes that reveal the names of students, faculty, or program personnel are also considered identifying information. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disqualification.

- **Liability**
  WAERT will take reasonable precautions, but students are responsible for any loss or damage to their exhibits or equipment.
- **Multiple Entries**
  Students may submit only one entry per category. If entering multiple categories, each entry must cover a different topic and include a separate application.
- **Rule Exceptions**
  Exceptions may only be granted by the Exhibit Coordinator and current WAERT President. Unauthorized changes will result in disqualification.
- **Application Process**
  Application and exhibit submission deadlines are posted on the WSRT/WAERT website and the application itself. The date and time on the email submission will serve as the official timestamp for entry. Students must submit all required documents to the Exhibit Coordinator listed on the application using their student email account. The Exhibit Application (fillable PDF) should be submitted first and completed electronically whenever possible, as handwritten applications can be difficult to read. Virtual signatures from both the student and Program Director are preferred; however, typed names are acceptable if electronic signatures are not feasible.
  For group exhibits (permitted in all categories except essays), one student must be designated as the primary contact and listed on the application. A confirmation email will be sent to the primary contact once the application has been received and processed.

  Each exhibit will be assigned a number, which the student must be clearly display:
  - **Essay**: On the title page and intro slide (if presented).
  - **Scientific Exhibit**: In the exhibit title on the slide.
  - **Computer Exhibit: On** the intro slide
  - **Video Exhibit**: On the title screen

11. **Judging & Scoring**

Each exhibit will be evaluated by three judges using standardized rubrics. Copies of these rubrics are available on the WSRT/WAERT website for reference.

Please note: A thesis statement or objectives are mandatory in all categories. For complete requirements and judging criteria, refer to the exhibit category section applicable to your entry in this document and the corresponding rubric available on the WSRT website.

Judges will be selected from medical imaging and health professionals to ensure accuracy and fairness. All judging will be completed prior to Symposium, except for the presentation of Essays. **Judging decisions are final.**

Essays will be sent directly to judges via email. All other exhibits will be **posted on the WSRT website** without identifying information for judges to review during the judging process. After winners are announced, winners will be listed with their exhibit name, student name(s), and their program name listed.

12. **Tie Breaker Process**
    If a tie is found after the initial scoring in a category, the Tie-Breaker System will be used to assign additional points to the tied exhibits and determine their final placement.

    Essays: Each judge will independently evaluate their assigned submissions using the official scoring rubrics. After all essays and presentations have been scored, judges will rank the entries they evaluated based on overall impression. For tie-breaking purposes, points will be awarded to the judges' top-ranked entries. In **the essay category, the top five essays** will receive tie-breaker points. In the **presentation category, the top three presentations** will receive tie-breaker points.

    Scientific/Computer/Video Exhibits:
    Each judge will independently evaluate their assigned submissions using the standard rubrics. After scoring, each judge will rank the entries they evaluated based on overall impression. In the scientific, computer, and video categories, the exhibits chosen as being a **top three** exhibit by their judge will receive tie-breaker points.
    - If a tie still exists, the number of votes and the number of first place (or higher ranked) votes will be compared.
    - If an exhibit has a penalty deduction, the tie will automatically be broken in favor of the exhibit without a penalty.

13. **Penalties**
    - **Topic Changes**: Changing your topic without approval results in disqualification. Title changes are allowed **within 2 weeks of applying** if approved; otherwise, a 5-point deduction applies. Students are encouraged to provide a finalized exhibit title on their application at the time of submission.
    - **Exhibit Number**: If the assigned exhibit number is not included with the exhibit title but appears elsewhere in the exhibit, a 2-point deduction will be applied. If the number is missing entirely, a 10-point deduction will be applied.
    - **Identification**: Any identifying information (student, school, patient) will result in disqualification.

14. **Formatting & Sources**
    All exhibits must follow **APA 7th edition formatting**. All sources, including images and diagrams, must be properly cited. Purdue OWL is the source used by the judges to check APA formatting guidelines: Link to Purdue OWL APA Guide

15. **Deadlines**
    All deadlines are strictly enforced.

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Essay Exhibit and Presentation

1. Essay Submission Guidelines

- Submit one original essay via **email** to the Exhibit Coordinator indicated in **Word® format only** (not Adobe®) by the posted deadline. **Students must also submit an application deadline by the date listed.**

- Essays must:
  - Contain no student or program identifiers.
  - Be written by one author.
  - Be 6–10 full pages (excluding cover page, abstract, and references).
  - Essays must be formatted electronically on 8.5" x 11" paper, double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
  - Follow APA 7th edition style (information found here: Link to Purdue OWL APA Guide).
    - A specific title format will be provided after application approval – Author's name will be removed
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  - Include a clear thesis, supported by content and conclusion.
  - Include images relevant to the essay topic to support the relationship to medical imaging.
  - Include an abstract that does not exceed 120 words.
  - Cite at least 5 current sources, with in-text citations and a reference page.

2. Presentation Commitment

Students whose essays are selected among the top five entries in the competition agree to deliver an oral presentation on their topic during Spring Symposium.

3. Judging

- Three judges will evaluate each essay using the 2027 Essay Rubric within 30 days of the submission deadline.
- Three different judges will assess the oral presentations using the 2027 Oral Presentation Rubric.
- Judges in both categories will work independently and form their own opinions. To ensure fairness, no judge will evaluate both the written essay and the oral presentation.

4. Symposium Presentation

After essay portion of the judging is complete, the Exhibit Coordinator will determine which essays advance to the presentation portion based on total points earned.

- Top five essays will be chosen for presentation.
- Presentations must be in the student's own words.
- There will be a time limit for the presentations that is strictly enforced.
- No videos or external links allowed in the presentation

The presentation day will be determined by the symposium schedule. On the selected day, presentations will take place approximately 90 minutes before the conference begins. The exact date and time will be communicated to all presenters.

5. Scoring & Awards

Winners for 1st through 3rd place will be determined by the combined scores from the essay and presentation. In the event of a tie, the tie-breaker system outlined in the general rules will apply.

Scientific Exhibits

1. Application & Format

- Submit applications and exhibits by the posted deadlines to the Exhibit Coordinator indicated.
- Exhibitors will receive confirmation via email.
- WAERT provides a standard PowerPoint template with a specific slide size. **The slide dimensions must not be modified - violations will result in a significant point deduction.**
- Customization of the design elements of the slide including fonts and colors is permitted.
- All exhibit content, excluding references, **must be contained on a single slide**.
- Limit of 1–2 objectives per exhibit.
- Space is limited; concise content and selective graphics are encouraged.
- Sources must be cited within the exhibit and included in a reference list on a separate, second slide.

2. Exhibit Number

- Each exhibit is assigned a number upon application approval.
- This number **must appear with the exhibit title on the slide**. Title changes without notification may result in deductions.

3. Sources & Confidentiality

- All sources must be listed in **APA 7th edition format:** Link to Purdue OWL APA Guide. These sources must be cited within the exhibit and included in a reference list on a separate, second slide in order to be counted.
- Students must remove any identifying information from radiographic images including patient information and the institution they were obtained. Editing comments or tracked changes that reveal the names of students, faculty, or program personnel are also considered identifying information. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disqualification.
    - Charts, photos, and technical data are allowed if they meet these criteria.

Computer & Video Exhibit Rules on next page.

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Computer Exhibits

1. Application

- Submit applications and exhibits by the posted deadlines to the Exhibit Coordinator indicated.
- No limit on the number of objectives.

2. Confidentiality & Format

- All visuals must be high-quality, properly sourced using **APA 7th edition format:** Link to Purdue OWL APA Guide, and free of identifying information (program, site, hospital, patient). Judges should not have any indication of the program the student(s) are from.
    - Editing comments or tracked changes that reveal the names of students, faculty, or program personnel are also considered identifying information.
    - Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disqualification.
- **Exhibit number must be displayed on the intro slide.**
- Exhibits must be original work.
- Judging will be based solely on the content of the presentation itself, not on any surrounding or additional materials. For example, an interactive or continuously running PowerPoint program would not influence the evaluation.

3. Audio

- Audio is allowed but should enhance—not simply narrate—the content.
- Judges may review with and without audio to assess its value.
- Embedded audio is considered part of the exhibit and will be judged accordingly.

4. Submitting Completed Exhibits

If the file size is large, the presentation may need to be converted; the Exhibit Coordinator will assist with this process. To avoid delays, it is strongly recommended that you submit your project early.

Video Exhibits

1. Application

- Submit applications and exhibits by the posted deadlines to the Exhibit Coordinator indicated. The date and time on the email submission will serve as the official timestamp for entry.
- No limit on the number of objectives.

2. Confidentiality & Format

- All visuals must be high-quality, properly sourced using **APA 7th edition format:** Link to Purdue OWL APA Guide, and free of identifying information (program, site, hospital, patient). Judges should not have any indication of the program the student(s) are from. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disqualification.
- **Exhibit number must be displayed on the title screen.**
- Exhibits must be original work.
- Judging is based solely on the content within the video – no surrounding materials will be considered.

3. Submitting Completed Exhibits

Videos must be uploaded to a YouTube® account and a link to the video emailed to the Exhibit Coordinator indicated by the posted deadline.