

Guidelines for presentation of Paper for Junior Water Prize in Ghana

These guidelines are designed to help prepare your paper in a professional style. You should follow them closely. You may, of course, present your paper in a slightly different way if you feel this would be better for your particular project. But we urge you to follow these guidelines – at least in principle.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) competition is weighed much more heavily on the quality of the paper, than on the poster presentation. Past international Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) winners wrote papers which closely followed these guidelines. You may increase your chances of winning by following them too!

First some recommendations from the SJWP judging panel based on their experience in selecting and reviewing projects:

- Projects should not only include a problem statement, but clearly explain how the project can contribute to solve the problem. Even if the project in itself may not solve the problem, it should be shown how the activities in the project contribute to problem solving.
- Each project should try to address cause-effect-solution. This means studying not only the environmental effect (e.g. nitrogen load in a lake system) but also the causes behind the problem and ways of solving the problem. For example, a study on the eutrophication level of a lake will in itself not be highly competitive in the final of the SJWP. On the other hand, if the study on eutrophication also addresses the causes behind the environmental disturbance, and outlines how the monitoring of eutrophication will contribute to improved management of the lake environment, then the projects stands a better chance in the competition.
- SJWP strongly welcomes development oriented research projects. It is important though, when presenting an applied solution to a problem (e.g., an invention of a new technology, or a better way of analyzing an environmental problem), that the project refers to previous experience. Try to convince the reader that you are filling a gap that others have not studied before.
- If the project focuses on awareness creation and change in the way people manage water, it is important to document the work in a way that gives quantitative evidence of what has been achieved. For example, it is not enough to say that "many people at the project site have started saving water with the new technology". Instead it is important to show – through e.g., surveys - the number of people that have adopted a new way of managing water in a structured way (e.g., by gender, age, change over time etc).
- If projects are long-term school projects, clearly show what has been done by whom over the years. Show what you as a team presenting the SJWP project have contributed to the final consolidated result.

- It is important that you show clearly that it is really you that have done the job and written the projects.
- Finally, it is important that you show that you have read some relevant literature on the topic for your own orientation.

PAPER FORMAT

- The paper must be written in English.
- The paper must be typed in 12 point (or more, but not less) using Times New Roman. Use 1½ spacing and provide adequate margins – at least 2 cm on the top and the bottom, and 1.5 cm at the sides.
- Number the pages of the paper (except the title page).
- Together with figures, photographs, tables and annexes, the paper must not exceed 15 pages of single-sided 8 ½ X 11” paper.
- The Title Page and Preliminary Matters are not included in the 15 page limit. It is helpful to number these pages in Roman numeral (II, III, IV, V, etc.) and start using standard numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.) for the main section of your report (introduction, ...).
- The paper must be submitted electronically (preferably as a pdf document). It is recommended that the paper be organized into the following sections:

DETAILED GUIDANCE FOR YOUR PAPER

1. TITLE PAGE

You may design the title page of your paper as you wish, but it must contain the following information in an easily legible form:

"Entry to the Stockholm Junior Water Prize [year]" Your paper title, your name(s), and your school and your region.

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a. Preliminary matters refers to the pages between the Title page and the first page of your main paper. These pages should provide the following (and preferably in the order given):

b. Abstract (i.e., summary) of your project – on no more than 1 page. It should be concise and self-contained. The abstract should describe the topic, scope, and conclusions of the paper. Tips for a good Abstract:

- Write the abstract last so that it accurately reflects the content of the paper.
- Briefly state the problem (or purpose).
- Indicate the theoretical or experimental plan used.
- Summarize the principal findings.
- Point out major conclusions.
- If abbreviations are used, define them at first use in the abstract and again at first use in the text.

c. Table of Contents (listing every section and subsection);

d. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms used in the paper;

e. Acknowledgements (where you list and thank all the people who helped you in your project); and it is important to clearly indicate here how much external help you received,

f. Short biography of yourself (half a page). What are your interests, what do you want to study, etc.

3. INTRODUCTION

Here you set out your project in broad details. Describe the water-environment problem you studied and why it was important to study it. You should also put your project in its scientific setting, detailing at least the most relevant work done on your project topic by others.

4. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this section you must detail all the experimental procedures that you used in your project – all methods and all materials.

5. RESULTS

Here you present all the results you obtained. Present them either in a Tables or Figures along with in an appropriate description, but not in both these forms.

6. DISCUSSION

Note: This is an extremely important section which the judges pay close attention to, so you must think about it very carefully. Here you must discuss your results. You must discuss how the results are important for the water environment problem you were studying; how novel they are; and how they relate to the results of others working on a similar project to yours (are they the same, similar, or different? why?).

7. CONCLUSIONS

We recommend that you number your conclusions and present them on a maximum of two pages (one page is perfectly acceptable).

8. REFERENCES

The idea of giving a reference is to enable the reader, if he or she wishes, to obtain it and read it. So you have to give all the information necessary for this.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

In addition to the list of specific references, you may (if necessary) give a list of books, and other sources of information, that you consulted generally but have not given as intext references.

10. ANNEXES

Use annexes only if they are really required Annexes are thus used to give detail which would otherwise make the main text too lengthy or too cumbersome.

... and FINALLY,

If there is anything in these Guidelines that you feel you do not fully understand, ask your teacher or project supervisor for help. Don't be afraid to ask! The research paper could easily be considered college level work.