2026–2027 CT JSHS Requirements for the Oral Competition

The oral competition includes three parts:

On Saturday, February 20, 2027, with the oral competition judges, **virtually**:

1. A 12-minute presentation of your project
2. A 6-minute Q & A

On Saturday, February 27, 2027, with the Symposium audience (not judged), **in person**:

3. An individual presentation (3 minutes), audience Q & A (approximately 4-6 minutes)

Important deadlines for uploading to https://forms.gle/9xyPRNeLZCqZQh6p8

- **Abstract PDF (if updated since registering in the fall): by February 11, 2027**
  - See also "CT JSHS Abstract Preparation" document
- **Research Paper PDF: by February 14, 2027, *even if your research is not complete!***
- **Summary Slide: by Wednesday, February 24, 2027**

Requirements for the Research Paper

- The paper should be a minimum of 5-6 pages and a maximum of 20 pages, including appendices and references.
- Submitted papers must be single spaced.
- Photography, graphs, tables, diagrams, charts, or other graphic representation presented in the paper must be simply presented and comply with the maximum file size limit of 1.8 Mb.
- A maximum size limit for the electronic research paper is 1.8 Mb.
- A recommended outline for the research paper includes:
  - title page, or cover page, stating the student's name, school address, and title of the research
  - acknowledgment of major assistance received
  - as applicable, statement that "research involving non-human vertebrates or human subjects was conducted under the supervision of an experienced teacher or researcher and followed state and federal regulatory guidance applicable to the humane and ethical conduct of such research"
  - table of contents
  - introduction
  - materials and methods
  - results (data or findings)
  - discussion and conclusions
  - references, or literature cited
  - and appendices (if necessary, but please keep in mind that the introduction is far more valuable in the judging process than appendices of raw data)

PowerPoint Presentation Rules

- You will create a PowerPoint presentation (Google Slides, Keynote, and Adobe PDF are also acceptable) for use during your judging time period by sharing your screen. Go to presentation mode and make sure you have your video shared as well as your audio unmuted.
- Embed any video, or other presentation developed through other software, into PowerPoint.
- If using video, students must comply with the following ground rules:
    - The video component cannot make up more than one (1) minute of the presentation and must be directly relevant to the project.
    - No audio or background music is permitted other than sounds that are an integral part of the research. Recorded or mechanically produced narration is not permitted. Narration must come from the speaker.
    - Videos (and audio, if any) may be used only for those aspects of the presentation that cannot adequately be presented in a slide. Video material presented must be an integral part of the research and should not be a substitute for presentation of data. Videos must not be used for presentation of common procedures, illustrating equipment, or showing laboratory facilities. Videos should illustrate work that was done and should not be used for stimulation or aesthetic value.

Presentation Tips

- Remember, you are the expert. No one in the audience knows as much about your research investigation as you. Therefore, remember to explain your research in enough detail so the audience will understand what you did, how you did it, and what you learned.
- Whenever possible, avoid jargon or unnecessary terminology. If it is essential to use specialized terms, remember to explain the specialized term briefly. Give your audience enough time to understand what you are trying to convey.
- Deliver your presentation at a comfortable pace. It helps to practice your presentation before a nonspecialized audience. Practice will help perfect the presentation and the timing. Do listen to the advice of your non-specialized audience, but also get help from a teacher or other advisors as needed.
- Graphs, tables, and other representations help explain your results. Keep them simple and uncluttered. Focus on important information; for example, remember to name the variables on both axes of a graph, and state the significance of the position and shape of the graph line.

Presentation and Q & A with Judges (online the Saturday prior to the Symposium)

- In advance, you will be assigned an 18-minute time slot on Saturday, February 20, 2027, for your virtual presentation. You will receive a Microsoft Teams link in advance. Be on time! Dress to impress. Check your lighting to make sure you can be clearly seen. Avoid bright light behind you, which can make you appear in shadow or washed out. Make your background non-distracting, such as a plain wall, a bookcase, etc. Avoid virtual backgrounds, which are very distracting.
- The research presentation may not exceed 12 minutes, followed by a maximum 6-minute question period. A session moderator will aid the student speaker in maintaining this schedule and in fielding questions from the judges in a systematic way.

- The procedure for maintaining the time includes a 10-minute signal for the student, and finally, a 12-minute hard stop by the moderator. At the 12-minute point, the student speaker must stop the presentation, even if he or she has not finished.
- Following the presentation, the session moderator will ask for judges' questions. The Q & A period will last for up to 6 minutes. The student speaker should repeat a question before answering so the team of judges may understand the entire dialogue.
- **Your 12-minute presentation on Microsoft Teams will be recorded** but the Q & A session will not. Other participants will have an opportunity to view the recording during the week of February 22 through 26. It will be taken down following the event.

Presentation and Q & A with the Audience During the Symposium

- Prepare a summary slide for your presentation. An example of what a summary slide could look like is here. Bring the summary slide on a USB portable drive (for use with our PC), along with your presentation (in case a question is asked that can only be answered by referring to a presentation slide).
- In advance, you will be assigned to a group for the day of the symposium, February 27, 2027. During one session, you will answer questions from the general audience, who will have been encouraged to view your presentation video prior to this session, during the week of February 22 through 26. You will be given 3 minutes to do an introduction, with your summary slide on the projection screen, before taking questions. There will be 5-6 oral presenters per 45-minute session.