

# Nova Scotian Institute of Science



## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS entering the 2012 NSIS STUDENT SCIENCE WRITING COMPETITION

In 2012, the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS), in collaboration with the Situating Science Knowledge Cluster (Halifax), are sponsoring the NSIS 2012 Science Writing Competition. There are two categories of entries under consideration: This year the science writing competition will have two categories with a prize for the best article prepared by a graduate student and a prize for the best article prepared by an undergraduate student. All students attending a University in Nova Scotia are eligible.

### SCIENCE WRITING:

#### Introduction:

Entries submitted to the writing category of the 2012 competition should be either:

1. *Original research.* a submission involving original research findings, i.e. your own research, or research in which you have participated, is welcomed. Submissions should include insights into the significance of the research and its application.
2. *Review article.*(a) A paper that provides a scientific review of historic and current literature in your field of interest that provides a new analysis or perspective. Your own insights and comments on the significance of this research and its relevance should be noted.  
(b) A paper directed to a non-specialist audience reviewing some aspect of science and its relevance and/or its application.

All submissions will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Scientific value of topic,
- Explanation of scientific application and relevance,
- Presentation and quality of writing

A prize of \$500 will be awarded to the winning paper prepared by a graduate student.  
A prize of \$250 will be awarded to the best paper prepared by an undergraduate student.

**Format of articles submitted:**

The winning submissions will be posted on the NSIS and Situating Science Knowledge Cluster Websites and the authors will be invited to submit the paper to the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science*. All articles published in the *Proceedings* are subject to the normal review process by the Editor.

The format should not exceed 6 pages. The word count in the *Proceedings* is about 650/page; thus you should aim for about 3200 -3900 words total; references excluded. Diagrams and graphs can be included within that page length and are usually printed across the full page width. Approximately 1 page of text (19 x 11 cm or 7.5 x 4.5 inch) is equivalent to about 650 words. Black and white photos can be considered. It is suggested that you aim your writing at the general scientific community. The *New Scientist* or *Scientific American* can serve as a model. Avoid unnecessary jargon or acronyms.

**Submissions:**

The deadline for the author to provide a “**notification of intent**” to enter the 2012 Competition, by regular mail or e-mail, to the Competition Coordinator at the address below is:

**Friday, 6 January 2012.**

This notification should include the following information:

- your name and current address (home or departmental), with e-mail and/or telephone number;
- the name of your University and home department;
- the name of your program and your current year in that program;

The deadline for the author to submit the “**final entry**” to the science writing competition is:

**Friday, 2 March 2012.**

Please submit a hard copy of your article by regular mail along with an e-mail with the article as an attachment to the Competition Coordinator at the address below.

Please include a covering letter with your entry giving your University affiliation, the name of your academic program and your current year. This information will be passed on to the judges who will be assessing your contribution.

If you are submitting original data, include the name of your research supervisor and provide a statement that both your supervisor, and, if applicable, any co-worker(s) involved in the work, have agreed to including the data in your article. All personal or scientific information that you provide will be held in confidence.

The winners of the 2012 NSIS science writing competition will be contacted by the end of March 2012. The winning entry will be announced on the websites of both the

NSIS and the Situating Science Cluster (Halifax). The presentation of the awards will take place at the Windsor Lecture Theatre, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis Street, Halifax, at 7:30 pm on April 2, 2012.

**Point of Contact:**

NSIS Science Writing Competition Coordinator:

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