



NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Student Science Writing and Video Competition 2011



Information for Authors and Videomakers

In 2011 Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS), in collaboration with the Situating Science Knowledge Cluster (Halifax), are sponsoring the NSIS 2011 Science Writing and Video Competition. There will be two categories of entries: a science writing category and a short video production category. Since the Nova Scotian Institute of Science will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2012, special attention will be given to those entries, in both categories, which consider the theme of the 2011 competition "History of Science in Nova Scotia".

SCIENCE WRITING

Entries submitted to the writing category of the 2011 competition should be either:

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

All submissions will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Scholarly scientific worth (broadly construed)
- Explanation of relevance of historical context
- Explanation of significance to Nova Scotia

A prize of \$500 will be awarded to the winning paper.

Format for submitted articles:

The winning submission will be posted on the NSIS Website and the author 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 normally exceed 6 pages. The word count in the *Proceedings* is about 650/page; thus you should aim for about 3200-3900 words total. Diagrams and graphs will be included within that page length and are usually printed across the full page width. 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 2011 Competition, by regular mail or e-mail, to the Writing Competition Coordinator, Dr. Robert Cook, at the address below is: **Friday, 7 January 2011**.

This notification should include the following information:

- Your name and current address with e-mail and/or telephone number;
- The name of your University or College 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**" is: **Friday, 4 March 2011**

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

Dr. Robert H. Cook
c/o Department of Chemistry, roberthcook@eastlink.ca
6274 Coburg Rd., Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J3

Please include a covering letter with your entry giving your University or College 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 academic/scientific information that you provide will be held in confidence.

SCIENCE VIDEO

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS) and the Situating Science Knowledge Cluster (Halifax) are sponsoring a short video-making competition for students. The submissions can include a documentary, animation, musical video, etc. The competition aims to promote the use of video in the public communication of science and to encourage students in media presentation. Short videos (up to 4 minutes) may be submitted by students enrolled in any Nova Scotia University or post secondary Institute of Higher Learning involved in fields related to the advancement of science or scientific technology.

The theme "science" or "scientific technology" can be interpreted from different viewpoints. You may choose to explore a contemporary controversy, or a significant historical innovation. You may wish to discuss the impact of science and technology in society. The overall theme of the 2011 Science Writing and Video Competition is "History of Science in Nova Scotia"

Rules of Entry for Video presentation:

1. The competition is open to any student or group of students currently enrolled in post-secondary education institutions in Nova Scotia.
2. Each entry should run for no more than 4 minutes (including titles and credits).
3. Entries should be made in **avi**, **wmv**, **mp4** formats and should be saved on CD or DVD and sent by regular mail to the Video Competition Coordinator (see details on the submission requirements below).
4. By entering the competition, you are certifying that your video is original and does not infringe copyright laws. Please check the NSIS Website (www.chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS) for rules regarding copyright and the release form for people appearing in your video.
5. By entering this competition, the winning contestant(s) agree to allow the video to be shown on the NSIS website, the Situating Science Knowledge Cluster website, YouTube, as well as at events, lectures and public presentations delivered by the two organizations sponsoring the 2011 NSIS Science Writing and Video Competition.

All submissions will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Content. The video will be assessed for subject originality, creative presentation and coherence. The 2011 Science Writing and Video Competition theme "History of Science in Nova Scotia" should feature in the presentation.
- Technical merit. You will not be judged on your ability as an advanced video maker, but good technical merit is crucial. Standard components are required, including good sound quality (volume levels, minimal background noise, proper music mix/levels, etc.). Special effects are welcome but not required. Entrants may use any software and equipment they wish, but the video will not be awarded additional credit for effects that are not achievable with basic software and equipment (e.g., Windows Movie Maker®). Ultimately, the video should provide a compelling analysis or account in an attractive manner.
- Judges will be looking for the "replay value", meaningfulness and the enjoyment factor.

A prize of \$500 will be awarded to the winning video.

Some tips to consider:

- Try to make your video accessible to a wide audience. Film makers often use storyboarding to sketch out the plot or sequence of the film before filming.
- Remember, your video entry will not be accompanied by any explanatory material. If your goal is to convey a message, think about how this might be effectively achieved from the start. It is usual to credit those involved, or contributing, at the end of the video.

Submissions:

The **deadline** for the video maker to give "**notification of intent**" to enter the 2011 Competition, by regular mail or by e-mail to the Video Competition Coordinator (see contact information below) is: **Friday, 7 January, 2011.**

This notification should include the following information:

- Your name(s), contact e-mail address, and telephone number;
- The name of your post-secondary education institute;
- The name of your program and your current year in that program;
- A "working" title for your video production;

The **deadline to submit** your final video entry is: **Friday, 4 March 2011.**

Please submit two copies of the CD or DVD of your video by regular mail and to the e-mail account below to the attention of the Video Competition Coordinator. (If preferred by the applicant, the video may be submitted using a memory stick (which would be returned at the conclusion of the competition)):

Dr. Amrita Mishra,
c/o Department of Bioethics, nsis.video@gmail.com
5849 University Ave., Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S., B3H 4H7

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

AWARD PRESENTATION

The winners of the Writing and Video categories will be contacted by the end of March 2011. The winning entries 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 Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Summer Street, Halifax, April 4, 2011.

Contact:

Should you have any general questions regarding the 2011 NSIS Science Writing and Video Competition, you may contact the Competition Chair at the address below.

Dr. Robert H. Cook
c/o Department of Chemistry, roberthcook@eastlink.ca
6274 Coburg Rd., Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J3