

Professional Paper Competition

TOPIC: “Ethics and the Civil Engineer of 2025”

The following may be used to stimulate, but should in no way limit, the discussion.

In June 2006 a diverse group of civil engineering leaders gathered at the Summit on the Future of Civil Engineering with the purpose of articulating an aspirational global vision for the future of civil engineering. The aspirational vision developed for the Civil Engineer of 2025 as stated in *The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025* is:

- Entrusted by society to create a sustainable world and enhance the global quality of life, civil engineers serve competently, collaboratively, and ethically as master:*
- *planners, designers, constructors, and operators of society’s economic and social engine – the built environment;*
 - *stewards of the natural environment and its resources;*
 - *innovators and integrators of ideas and technology across the public, private, and academic sectors;*
 - *managers of risk and uncertainty caused by natural events, accidents, and other threats; and*
 - *leaders in discussions and decisions shaping public environmental and infrastructure policy.*

The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025 also states that Civil Engineers should be knowledgeable about ethical behavior (such as the difference between legal requirements and ethical expectations) and exhibit an attitude showing a commitment to ethics.

In a world where knowledge and education are continually expanding, the vision we have selected for our future involves the mastery of several areas in which civil engineers are not presently recognized. Therefore, we must ask:

- Is the current ASCE Code of Ethics adequate for the Civil Engineer of 2025?
- How do we prepare the Civil Engineers of 2025 for the ethical questions they will face during their careers?
- How can we encourage greater expectations for engineering ethics by 2025?
- What effect does new technology have on ethics for the Civil Engineer of 2025?
- Will an increased participation in the policy environment help or hurt the ethical standards of the Civil Engineer of 2025?
- How can the Civil Engineer of 2025 use their ethical standards to demonstrate a mastery of planning, designing, stewardship, innovation, management, and leadership?
- Are high ethical standards necessary to meet the aspirational vision set forth by ASCE?

RULES:

1. Papers are not to exceed 2,000 words in length, must be written by only one person, and should not have appeared in any publications other than in school or ASCE chapter publications. Reference citations of the papers should conform to the official ASCE *Authors' Guide to Journals and Practice Periodicals*, which can be found on the ASCE Publications website <http://www.pubs.asce.org/authors/index.html>. A complete bibliography should also be included, if appropriate.

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2. Authors must be undergraduate students and both ASCE Student Organization members and ASCE national student members in good standing at the time of submission to be considered.
3. One electronic copy of the paper should be submitted to asce2010.auburn.rules@gmail.com. E-mailed papers must be **received** by **February 17**. Three mailed copies of the paper should be sent to Sarah Alexander at the address listed below. Mailed papers must be **post marked** by **February 17**.

Sarah Alexander
Professional paper
Auburn University ASCE Conference
238 Harbert Engineering Center
Auburn University, AL 36849

4. Each author will be expected to make a 5-minute* oral presentation on the paper. Up to five minutes of questioning by the judges will be allotted following each presentation. (*Allowance of + or – 30 seconds without penalty.)
5. The paper portion of the competition constitutes 50% of the final score, while the oral presentation accounts for the remaining 50% of the score. A detailed breakdown of the scoring procedure is outlined on the scoring summary sheet.

SELECTION:

Winners will be selected by a panel of at least three (3) judges to be identified by the host school. All papers will be judged and ranked. Points will be allotted as follows:

Written Paper		
Topic choice		5 points
Originality		10 points
Grammar, spelling, and punctuation		10 points
Clarity and organization		10 points
Topic development		15 points
Oral Presentation		
Ability to communicate		5 points
Conciseness and time management		5 points
Personal Presence (appearance, poise, eye contact, enthusiasm, projection, ect)		10 points
Ability to answer questions		5 points

Note: Submission for the ASCE Student Conference Paper Competition does not constitute an entry for the National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest. While the paper topic is the same – and the same paper may be submitted for both contests – they are two separate events and require two separate submissions. For a complete set of rules for the 2010 National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest, please visit <http://www.asce.org/students>.