

All the entries in the theme-related sections (Posters, Creative Writing, Photographic Essays and Computer Presentations) MUST be on the 2009 TSTS theme "Astronomy...Science without limits". Teachers may elect to run a unit on Astronomy and allow students to choose which format they would best like to use to express their understanding of some aspect of the topic. (see website 2009 Newsletter 1 for curriculum planning ideas) Some teachers delegate different aspects of the topic to different groups and then allow follow-up time to share their completed efforts with the rest of the class.

These four sections are open to ALL age groups.

Teachers and students are advised to first view past Judges' Comments on our website to build on others' experience before planning their entries.

Closing Date for ALL these sections is Wed. June 24th 2009

Posters

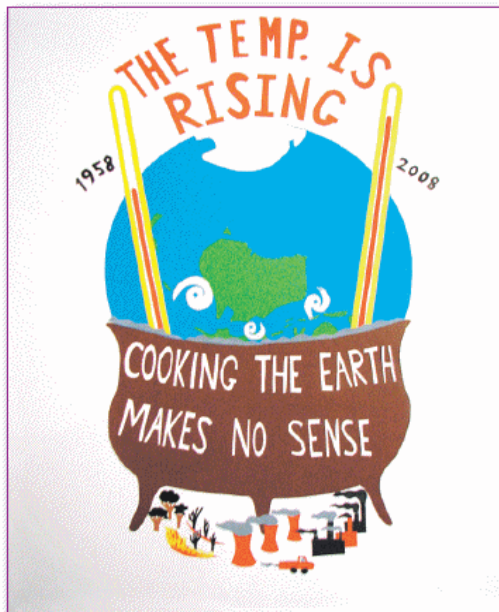
Understanding Goal

Students will understand how the conventions for making a poster can be used to convey a scientific message. Past winners can be viewed on web.

Judging Criteria

1. Scientific concept: relevance and significance
2. Presentation
 - a. Maximum size A2 (A1 is too large for display)
 - b. Must be suitable for wall display (preferably mounted on thicker card)
 - c. Two dimensional only
3. Visual impact – this is usually associated with simplicity. It's message should be able to be understood from 3m distance.
4. Clarity of message – the poster should clearly convey the scientific message
5. A poster is not a scientific chart, project, diagram or pictorial essay

Please pack posters flat, NOT rolled



Creative Writing

Understanding Goal

Students will understand how to use creative writing as a medium to convey a scientific message.

Judging Criteria

1. Scientific concept: relevance and significance
2. Maximum size – one side of A4 page
3. Creative use of words to convey the message. May also be illustrated

Judging

Entries can be either prose or verse but need to be the students own work. Other resources such as encyclopaedias, the World Wide Web and text books are useful for researching information and students may use this gathered information to inform their writing, but all references must be acknowledged. Where there is evidence of plagiarism the entry will NOT be considered.

Computer Presentations

Understanding Goal

Students will understand how to use a computer presentation as a medium to convey a scientific message.

Information

Programs (eg Power Point) should be capable of being run on "off the shelf" IBM compatible or Apple computers. Any special software needed to run the program should be included with the entry.

Interactive websites are highly regarded by the judges.

Presentation of the program:

1. The program must have a clear science content related to some aspect of the topic.
2. Entrants must submit:
 - a. Details of computer and compatible units
 - b. Written description explaining the purpose of the program and directions for running
 - c. Acknowledgements of all help received
 - d. Disc; separate one for each entry.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on

- The scientific content
- Originality
- How well the program runs
- Presentation including appropriate use of sound and movement and adequate timing.

Photographic Essays

Information

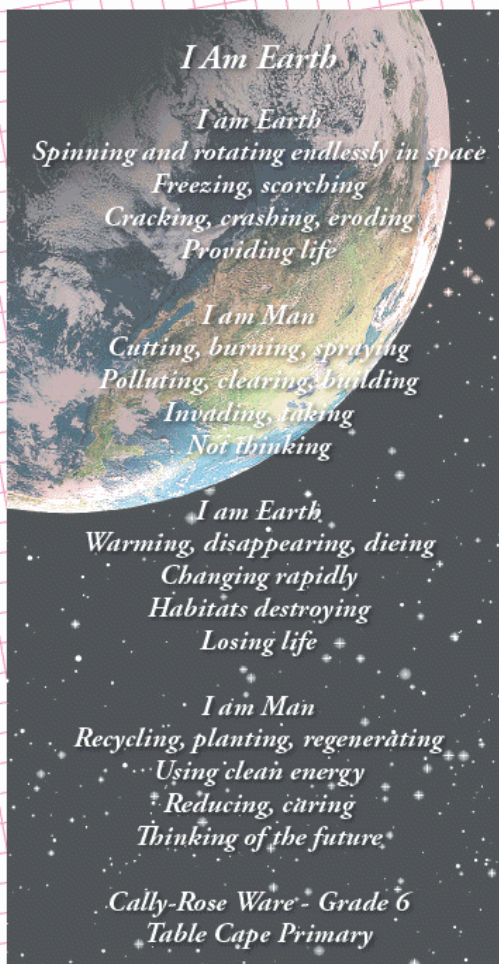
A photographic essay is a set of 6 to 8 photographs, taken by the entrant, which combine to express a scientific concept and the creator's thoughts about the subject. It is an interesting way of observing, recording and studying phenomena which might go unnoticed by the casual observer.

Presentation

Entries must be mounted on a poster sheet not bigger than A2, ready for display. Photographs can be in either colour or black and white and may be commercially processed. Each entry should be accompanied by a separate written description, attached to the back, including details of the camera used, and explaining the creator's thoughts. It is not essential to explain each photograph.

Judging Criteria

1. Relevance – 50%
 - To what extent are the individual photographs relevant to the science theme?
 - Is a science concept clearly conveyed through the photographic images?
 - Does the photographic sequence convey a story?
 - Does the accompanying written description support the visual story.
2. Presentation, photographic skills and techniques – 50%
 - Overall visual impact of the presentation
 - Clarity of images
 - Layout of the presentation
 - Use of tonal range to provide a focus on the subject(s)
 - Digital images are fine but are best printed on glossy paper
 - Please pack posters flat, NOT rolled



A 2008 award-winning creative writing entry, on the theme "Planet Earth: Planet of Change"

