



Student Collaborative Research Project 2018

Climate Change and the Future

Alpha Chi invites collaborative research projects from student researchers addressing the topic *Climate Change and the Future*. Each campus team will develop a focused topic, depending on the majors and research interests of the team members, which allows for both secondary and original research.

Here are some possibilities illustrating the diversity of topics that might emerge:

- a project combining education, geography, and international studies might explore global strategies for effecting change among developed and developing nations.
- a project on public health aspects of climate change might bring research in biology, chemistry, and ecology to reconsider the scope or consider adaptation models.
- a project might combine political science, sociology, and religious studies to consider the social dimensions of climate change.
- a project combining business, communications, and environmental studies might explore the future availability and marketing of recreation/tourism.

Process Overview

As with any research project, each team will identify a problem or formulate a hypothesis and conduct the necessary research. A research report of no more than ten pages will be submitted prior to the convention. This paper should include a title page identifying the team members and their disciplines as well as a research overview describing how this team planned, divided, and conducted their collaborative project. Findings will be displayed at the convention on a printed poster to be hung in a 4 x 4 ft. area of poster wall and discussed in a 10-minute oral presentation before a panel of judges.

Prize

At Alpha Chi's national convention, a panel of judges will review each research report and evaluate each presentation to determine the Student Collaborative Research Prize recipient. **The winning team will receive a \$5,000 prize, sponsored again by Alpha Chi's partner, Nationwide Insurance®.**

Guidelines

- Each chapter may submit one project to the competition. The project should be mentored by a faculty member committed to its success. The team should also communicate regularly with its chapter sponsor.
- Each team must consist of 3-5 Alpha Chi student members, representing at least 3 different departments on the campus. The team composition must be at least 2/3 undergraduates during the fall semester. As long as student members serve as principal researchers, one faculty member may serve as part of the research team. Each member's part in the research project should be carefully documented.
- **To enter the competition, a team representative must email the formal project title and an abstract to office@alphachihonor.org by no later than Dec. 1. This email must also name the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, and the academic fields they represent.**
- Each team will send at least one student team member to the national convention in Portland to present the project results to a panel of judges. Each team will be contacted with its presentation time.
- **The competition consists of three elements: (1)** a written research report of no more than 10 pages to be emailed to office@alphachihonor.org by Mar. 1; **(2)** a printed poster to be brought to Portland and hung by 5 p.m., Apr. 5; and **(3)** a 10-minute oral presentation on Apr. 6, which may include (for visibility and ease of reference only) either a single PowerPoint slide of the poster OR a 1-page printed copy of the poster for each judge.
- The paper, poster, and presentation must conform to the rubric (rev. 4/2017) by which all projects will be judged.

Collaborative Research Project Rubric (rev. 4/2017)

Name of School or Team: _____ / 100 POINTS

Presentation Title: _____

Judge: _____

POSTER (visual communication of the research project) _____ / 40 POINTS

Content—poster includes clearly identified standard academic elements:

- title
- authors
- introduction
 - research problem/topic and its significance
 - purpose and objectives of the research
- methods
- results
- conclusions
- acknowledgements

Visual Presentation

- clear connection is established between text and graphic elements
- text and graphic elements are balanced
- text and graphic elements display appropriate word choice, accurate grammar
- text and graphic elements are highly legible (adequate resolution) and clearly labeled
- graphic elements are accurately labeled
- layout and design creates a logical flow, contributes to meaning

Creativity—writing style and design elements fully engage the viewer’s interest

PAPER (written communication of research project) _____ / 40 POINTS

General Content

- Project exhibits originality, rigor, innovation
- Report is clear, focused, coherent
- Critical thinking skills are evident: i.e. summary, synthesis, analysis, interpretation, logical reasoning, transformation of knowledge

Writing Style

- Introduction—reflects a robust research design built on an understanding of current scholarship; a clear research problem, topic, or question is formulated and its significance explained; research goals are outlined
- Methodology—thoroughly describes how information/data was gathered
- Results—clearly explains and analyzes; is well organized and detailed; is carefully connected to data
- Conclusion—draws analytical connections between the results and the research question; points to future directions for scholarship
- Sources—appropriate, sufficient, accurately cited
 - Writing style—appropriate for subject and field; grammar, spelling, mechanics do not distract from meaning
 - Manuscript formatting—consistent and appropriate; uses style sheet appropriate for field; all elements, including title page, present and labeled

PRESENTATION (oral communication of the research project) _____ / 20 POINTS

Effectiveness

- speaker is audible, focused, clear
- verbal and non-verbal communication contributes to the success of the presentation

Engagement with Audience

- speaker is eager to engage
- speaker is thorough and concise answering questions

Depth and Complexity

- speaker explains/expands on the poster and project
- speaker defines field-specific terminology
- speaker clearly communicates “big picture” concepts
- speaker explains broader implications of research