

Best Practices Information Request Form

Sections and Branches

The Leader Training Committee (LTC) is continuously expanding their Best Practices Guide to document successful activities and practices in our Sections and Branches.

Please use this form (Word format) to document your group's successful activity so we can share it with other leaders. We strongly encourage you to attach relevant graphics and photos (either embedded in the Word document or as attachments, PDF, jpg, tif, or other formats). We will incorporate the new Best Practice in the Guide and post it to the web site. Please return your completed form to Brian Pawula at blpawula@hornershifrin.com and/or Nancy Berson at nberson@asce.org.

Date	6/5/2026
PROJECT TITLE	University Essay Competition
1. Section/Branch	Nigeria Section
2. Section/Branch Size	930 (as of July 2025)
3. Project Contact	
Name	Mobolaji Peace Olagbemi
Phone Number	+234 803 085 9860
Email	mobolajipeace@gmail.com
4. Project Category	College Student Outreach
5. Project Description	<p>The 2025 ASCE Nigeria University Essay Competition was organized to promote STEM engagement, encourage innovation among civil engineering students, and inspire future engineers to think critically about infrastructure challenges affecting underserved communities.</p> <p>The competition was themed: “Civil Engineering for Social Impact: Designing Infrastructure that Serves the Underserved.”</p> <p>The initiative targeted students from universities across Nigeria with active ASCE student groups, as well as institutions where the formation of an ASCE student chapter had been initiated or proposed. Its primary objective was to encourage students to explore how civil engineering can advance social development, sustainability, resilience, and equitable access to infrastructure, while also increasing ASCE's visibility among students.</p>

	<p>In addition, the competition served as a platform to strengthen student group participation and create meaningful opportunities for mentorship and professional development.</p>
<p>6. The Process (What you did, When and How)</p>	<p>The competition planning process began with the identification of STEM and student engagement as a priority focus area for the ASCE Nigeria Section.</p> <p>A small coordinating team was established to develop the competition framework, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, communication strategy, and overall timeline.</p> <p>The following steps were implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple themes were proposed by members of the coordination team, with the final theme selected to align with ASCE’s global vision of infrastructure serving communities and ASCE Nigeria’s emphasis on sustainable infrastructure. 2. Supporting materials were developed to guide participation and promote the competition, including an online submission form (Google Forms) outlining eligibility and submission requirements, judging criteria, prize details, and promotional flyers. 3. Official invitation letters were distributed to Heads of Department of Civil Engineering at targeted universities via email as part of direct outreach to engineering departments. 4. The competition was publicized through ASCE Nigeria social media platforms, student group networks, and WhatsApp groups to maximize reach and engagement. 5. A panel of reviewers was constituted to evaluate submissions. 6. Essays were screened and assessed using defined criteria, including eligibility, originality, technical relevance, practicality, innovation, and communication quality. 7. A public presentation and recognition session for winning participants was planned for the ASCE Nigeria 2025 Conference. 8. Cash prizes were funded through contributions from one or more members of the ASCE Nigeria Board of Direction. <p>The project was coordinated virtually, enabling effective collaboration among volunteers and participants across different regions of Nigeria.</p>
<p>7. Those in Charge (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.)</p>	<p>The project was coordinated by the ASCE Nigeria Section Abuja Branch President, with support from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASCE Nigeria Section Board of Direction 2. ASCE Nigeria Section Publicity Chair and media volunteer team 3. ASCE Nigeria Section Technical Committee Chair 4. ASCE Nigeria Section Student Affairs Committee Chair <p>The Project Coordinator provided overall leadership and oversight, managing planning, communication, outreach, timeline coordination, and the evaluation process to ensure effective execution of the program.</p>


8. Time Frame (When Started, When Completed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Initiated: May 2025 2. Competition Announcement: June 2025 3. Submission Period: June–July 2025 4. Evaluation Period: July 2025 5. Winner Presentation and Recognition: July 17, 2025
9. Success Factors (The Parts that Worked Really Well)	<p>Several key aspects of the project contributed significantly to its success:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The competition theme strongly resonated with students by linking civil engineering to real-world societal challenges. 2. Robust digital outreach through social media platforms and student networks significantly increased awareness and participation. 3. Collaboration with student groups enhanced communication, coordination, and overall engagement. 4. Volunteer support from ASCE strengthened the transparency and credibility of the evaluation process. 5. The competition meaningfully increased ASCE Nigeria’s visibility among engineering students.
10. Setback Factors (The Parts that did Not Work Well)	<p>Some challenges encountered during the project included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited funding, which may have constrained resources available for prizes, promotional activities, and logistical support. 2. Participant selection being managed at the university level, which may have limited broader outreach and inclusion of additional interested students. 3. Delayed responses from some participants near submission deadlines, which required additional follow-up and coordination.
11. Creativity (This is something off the wall that we did)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A distinctive feature of the project was its intentional integration of technical civil engineering concepts with social impact considerations, emphasizing solutions for underserved communities rather than focusing solely on conventional engineering design topics. 2. Hosting the prize-giving ceremony during the conference was a highly strategic decision, enhancing visibility, recognition, and engagement with a broader professional audience.
12. Administration (What was most Important?)	<p>The most important administrative elements included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear and consistent communication supported by well-defined timelines 2. Clearly established and documented evaluation criteria 3. Strong emphasis on transparency throughout the judging process <p>Overall, effective planning and the early assignment of responsibilities were critical to maintaining organization and ensuring the successful execution of the project.</p>


<p>13. Follow-Up (What was most important?)</p>	<p>The most important follow-up activities included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining ongoing communication with participating students to sustain engagement beyond the competition 2. Publicly recognizing winners and participants to celebrate their contributions and achievements 3. Encouraging continued involvement in ASCE student activities and related initiatives 4. Leveraging feedback from participants and judges to inform and improve future editions of the competition
<p>14. Recommendations (What you should ALWAYS do with this project?)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin planning early to ensure sufficient time for organization, outreach, and execution. 2. Maintain strong, consistent communication with student groups and university contacts throughout the process. 3. Leverage social media consistently for outreach, updates, and timely reminders. 4. Ensure judging criteria are clearly defined, transparent, and effectively communicated to all participants. 5. Share competition outcomes broadly through ASCE Nigeria platforms to maximize visibility and impact. 6. Provide certificates, recognition, or other incentives to encourage participation and engagement. 7. Align competition themes with current infrastructure needs and relevant societal challenges to enhance relevance and impact.
<p>15. Cautions (What you should NEVER do with this project?)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Never launch the competition without a clearly defined timeline and comprehensive communication plan in place. 2. Never delay responses to participant inquiries, as timely communication is essential for engagement and trust. 3. Avoid unclear or ambiguous judging criteria; all evaluation standards should be clearly defined and communicated upfront. 4. Do not underestimate the time and effort required to properly review and evaluate submissions. 5. Avoid relying on a single communication or publicity channel, as multi-platform outreach is necessary to reach a broad and diverse student audience. 6. Do not wait until the final stages to engage reviewers and volunteers; early involvement is critical to ensuring an effective and well-coordinated evaluation process.
<p>16. The Outcome</p>	<p>The competition successfully engaged engineering students across Nigeria and significantly increased awareness of ASCE among students and emerging professionals.</p> <p>Participants demonstrated strong creativity, technical competence, and a clear understanding of social infrastructure challenges through their essays.</p>


	<p>The project also strengthened collaboration between ASCE Nigeria and ASCE student groups (including developing and emerging student chapters), while positioning the Section as an active leader in STEM and engineering education in Nigeria.</p> <p>In addition, the initiative built meaningful momentum for future student-focused STEM programs and expanded outreach efforts.</p>
<p>17. Ongoing Activity (Would you do it again?)</p>	<p>Yes. The ASCE Nigeria Section intends to continue the essay competition as an annual STEM and student engagement initiative.</p> <p>Future editions may be expanded to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broader participation from additional universities and student groups 2. Increased and diversified sponsorship opportunities 3. New categories such as innovation challenges and project design competitions 4. Enhanced collaboration with secondary schools and international ASCE groups
<p>18. Speaker Contact Information (person from your group who would be willing to speak about the Best Practice)</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Name</p>	<p>Mobolaji Peace Olagbemi</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Phone Number</p>	<p>+234 803 085 9860</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Email</p>	<p>mobolajipeace@gmail.com</p>
<p>19. Additional Comments (We strongly recommend attaching relevant photos and graphics)</p>	<p>See the next three pages.</p>

Information and Promotional Materials


Join the 2025 STEM Essay Competition



Scan here 



Civil Engineering for Social Impact: Designing Infrastructure that serves the Underserved.



JOIN THE
2025 STEM ESSAY COMPETITION
FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



EMPOWER YOUR VOICE THROUGH IMPACTFUL CIVIL ENGINEERING ESSAYS

JUNE 16, 2025 — **JUNE 30, 2025**
Essay Competition Launch — Submission deadline: midnight



Civil Engineering for Social Impact: Designing infrastructure to serve the underserved

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
400L/500L Student of Civil Engineering
Registered Student Member of ASCE


ESSAY LENGTH
1,500 - 2000 words

SUBMISSION DATES
30th JUNE 2025

PRIZE MONEY
NGN200,000

ORGANIZER CONTACT:
Engr. Mobolaji Olagbemi 08030859860
Engr. Peter Sarki 08033296027

SCAN TO SUBMIT




The winner will be announced on July 13, 2025, and may be invited to present at the ASCE event on July 15, 2025.

The first 3 essays will be featured on our social media platforms



Essay Competition Rules and Scoring Criteria


**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
NIGERIA SECTION**

**ASCE NIGERIA SECTION 2025 UNIVERSITY ESSAY COMPETITION
ESSAY RULES AND SCORING RUBRIC**

Theme: Civil Engineering for Social Impact: Designing Infrastructure that Serves the Underserved

Eligibility


- Open exclusively to **undergraduate students** enrolled in accredited Civil Engineering programs in Nigeria. Applicants must also be registered student members of ASCE
- Only **one entry per student** is allowed.

Essay Guidelines

- Word Count:** Between 1,500 and 2,000 words.
- Format:** Typed, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1.5-line spacing, justified alignment.
- Language:** English only.
- File Format:** PDF only.
- Referencing:** Use APA citation style where necessary.
- Plagiarism:** Essays will be subjected to plagiarism screening. **Any plagiarized entry will be disqualified.**

Submission Instructions

- Submit via the official Google Form link:
<https://forms.gle/xRfgRWbY56KiUsZK6>
- Deadline:** Monday, 30 June 2025 (11:59 PM WAT)
- Late entries will **not** be considered.


**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
NIGERIA SECTION**

Scoring Rubric (Total: 100 points)

S/No.	Criteria	Score (Pts)	Score Description
1.	Clarity of thought and argument	20	Ideas are well-organized, logical, and flow naturally
2.	Relevance to Theme	15	The essay aligns with the theme and the societal role of civil engineering
3.	Originality & Creativity	15	Unique insights, practical solutions, or personal reflections are showcased
4.	Practicality of Ideas	15	Concepts are realistic, achievable, and locally relevant to Nigeria's context
5.	Relatability & Impact	10	Demonstrates how the ideas serve underserved populations or solve real issues
6.	Grammar & Writing Style	10	Language use is clear, concise, and professional with minimal grammatical errors
7.	Proper Referencing	5	Accurate citations and bibliography where sources or data are used
8.	Absence of Plagiarism	10	0% to <10% similarity report from plagiarism detection software

Winning Entry

- The highest-scoring essay will win a **₦200,000 cash prize**.
- The winner will be announced on 14th July 2025 and celebrated at the **ASCE Nigeria**
- Event on 15 July 2025** in Lagos and may be invited to present their essay at the event.
- Top essays may be published or shared through ASCE Nigeria's digital platforms and networks.

Judging Process

- Essays will be reviewed anonymously by a panel of engineering professionals and academics.
- The decision of the judging panel is final and not subject to appeal.

Prize Award Ceremony by the ASCE President during the 2025 ASCE Nigeria Section Annual Conference

