



Michigan State University Chapter

## 2008 North Central Regional Conference Paper Presentation Competition

### **TOPIC: "Ethical Issues Surrounding Infrastructure Privatization"**

The following can be used to stimulate, but should in no way limit, the discussion:

Many cities and states in the United States are experiencing financial difficulties. A potential solution is to privatize their infrastructure including sale of water utilities, transportation facilities, and energy production. Infrastructure privatization is also a global discussion with most of the focus on water supply and sanitation needs. Engineers work in both the private and public sectors and may be involved in all aspects of infrastructure privatization. Some questions to consider:

1. What are potential ethical issues of a privatization decision based primarily on financial need?
2. How much does location of the infrastructure impact the ethical priorities of a privatization decision?
3. What ethical issues do engineers in the public sector face with supporting a privatization decision? What about their role after privatization?
4. What ethical issues do engineers in the private sector face with supporting a privatization decision? What about their role after privatization?
5. There are many different forms or strategies of privatization (e.g., working with U.S. firms or international firms) – do some create more ethical considerations than others?

### **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 Student Organization 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.
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 Heather Thurston at [ncrc2008@gmail.com](mailto:ncrc2008@gmail.com). Papers must be **received** by February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 5pm.
4. Each author will be expected to make a 5-minute\* oral presentation on the paper. Up to five minutes of questioning by judges will be allotted following each presentation. (\*Allowance of + or – 5 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. Prizes for winners are as follows: (**1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$60, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$40**)

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*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 2008 National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest, please visit <http://www.asce.org/students>.*



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# 2008 North Central Regional Conference Paper Presentation Competition SCORING SUMMARY SHEET

Author's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ASCE Student Organization Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Scoring Criteria	Score
1. Adherence to topic (10%)	/ 10
2. Presence of original ideas and research involved (10%)	/ 10
3. Command of subject matter (10%)	/ 10
4. Spelling and grammar / length (2000 word maximum) (5%)	/ 5
5. Overall clarity, organization, quality of paper and references (15%)	/ 15
<b>Paper Sub-Total</b>	<b>/ 50</b>

Presentation Scoring Criteria	Score
1. Degree to which presentation addressed and supported key concepts of written paper and theme of contest	/ 10
2. Ability to communicate key concepts from written paper and to convince audience of their importance	/ 25
3. Personal bearing (i.e. appearance, poise, eye contact)	/ 5
4. Delivery style (i.e. reading, memorized, conversational) / pronunciation and proper use of technical language and grammar / enthusiasm and voice projection	/ 5
5. Time (5 minutes +/- 5 seconds) (5%) (Beyond 5-second allowance: 0.05 point penalty per second difference from required 5 minutes, i.e. 5:20 or 4:40 = 1 point penalty)	/ 5
6. Errors in logic or facts (up to 10 points penalty)	( ) penalty
<b>Presentation Sub-Total</b>	<b>/ 50</b>
<b>Paper Sub-Total</b>	<b>/ 50</b>
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>/ 100</b>