



## **GUIDELINES**

### **APA TPD STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

**DEADLINE: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST**

Students are encouraged to consider the following guidelines when preparing their papers for the competition.

#### **Thesis**

The thesis of the paper is the point against which your paper will be evaluated. A good thesis is clearly stated, has relevance to one or more modes used in the transportation industry, and should be applicable beyond its particular location.

#### **Organization**

The thesis should be stated near the beginning of the paper, along with a brief, general introduction to the discussion. The reviewers know the industry, but not necessarily the particular area being addressed. The paper should be well organized. Extraneous, irrelevant points should be left out. More does not equal better.

#### **Research**

The paper should be well researched. Original research is better than a literature review. A simple historic review is not desirable. Multiple sources should be checked, rather than relying on one source. Any research/sources noted in the paper should be included in the Reference or Bibliography section. The author should be aware of any biases held by the sources cited.

Factual statements are preferred to sweeping generalizations. For example, "Hardly anyone pays for parking" is not as good as "One study found that 95% of employees had free parking." All factual statements should be properly cited, accurately reported, and used correctly. Reviewers often check references. Regarding annual statistics, make sure to use the latest version.

#### **Conclusions/Application**

Papers should have a clear conclusion about what was learned. Reviewers are looking for insight on the topic and its potential for future use. The conclusion should contain how the findings can be applied. For example, a paper on emergency responsiveness should show how the findings apply to natural disaster relief; omitting this application would be a shortcoming.

#### **Formatting**

The competition has requirements related to font size, margins, line spacing, and page limits (see Call for Papers). These requirements must be followed to receive an award. A header/footer should be included that gives the paper's title and page number.

GUIDELINES  
APA TPD Student Paper Competition

Clear graphics and/or maps are desirable when helpful to make a point. General pictures are not desired. All graphics should be referenced in the paper.

Please proofread your paper. Poor formatting, incomplete sentences, and misspellings will detract from the paper's point and content, causing reviewers to question the quality of research. Papers submitted for competition should be free from any comments, edits, or grades.

**Questions**

Send questions and final submissions by **Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST** to:

**Laurel Land, AICP**

Chair, Student Paper Competition

APA Transportation Planning Division

E-mail: [l.land@rpcgb.org](mailto:l.land@rpcgb.org)



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**APA TPD STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**  
**DEADLINE: January 25, 2017 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST**

The Transportation Planning Division (TPD) is looking for outstanding student papers on current transportation planning or policy issues. The purpose is to recognize and reward work completed for courses in accredited graduate planning programs. Please nominate and encourage your students to participate in the contest. **Winners will be announced at the APA National Planning Conference in New York City, May 6-9, 2017.**

**Prizes**

Awards will be given as follows for the three best papers:

- Grand prize - \$1,000
- Second place - \$ 750
- Third place - \$ 500

Winning papers (or summaries) will be published in the TPD's quarterly newsletter. The TPD may also submit full versions of the winning paper for possible publication in APA's *Planning Magazine*.

**Criteria for Submission**

1. Papers must have been originally written by a **single author for a class** in a PAB-accredited graduate planning program during calendar years 2015 or 2016. The program chair, a faculty member, or the AICP liaison must nominate a paper by forwarding it to [lband@rpcgb.org](mailto:lband@rpcgb.org). Students may not nominate their own paper and doctoral students are not eligible for this award.
2. Each accredited program may submit a maximum of two papers.
3. Exclusions: A paper may be submitted only once; papers may not be revised and resubmitted in a subsequent year. Master's theses, terminal professional reports, internship projects, and student group projects are not eligible.

**Instructions for Submission**

1. No more than 25 pages, including an abstract (no more than 250 words), tables, maps, other diagrams, and references.
2. Double-spaced, one inch margins, minimum 12-point font.
3. Title page must be a separate document that includes student name, address, phone number, school and degree program, course title, and date when paper was originally submitted.

Call for Papers  
APA TPD Student Paper Competition

4. Headers and/or footers should only contain the paper title and page number. Name and/or other identifying information is to be omitted from the body of the paper.
5. Send papers to: Laurel Land at [lland@rpcgb.org](mailto:lland@rpcgb.org). Papers will only be accepted via e-mail; PDF format is preferred. Submission should include two documents: (1) title page; and (2) paper.
6. **The deadline for receipt of the papers is Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST.** No late papers will be accepted.
7. Contestants are highly encouraged to join the TPD.

### Selection

A subcommittee of planning faculty and practitioners will read all papers using blind review. Papers will be judged on:

1. **Relevance** to major current issues in transportation planning or policy
2. **Insight** and significance of discussion
3. **Quality** of the writing, argument, and documentation.

For specifications on paper submission, see attached Guidelines document.

TPD Executive Committee	
Gabriela Juarez, AICP Chair	Shelby Powell, AICP Secretary
Jamie Simchik, AICP Vice Chair of Outreach	Catherine Duffy, AICP Immediate Past Chair
Dharm Guruswamy, AICP Vice Chair of Programs	Sooraz Patro Jo Laurie Penrose, AICP Newsletter Editors
Dan Haake, AICP Vice Chair of Policy	Eric Howell Brian Laverty, AICP Webinar Program Managers
Larry Lennon, AICP Treasurer	