



FunFest 2026 Research Poster Competition High School Competition Rules



Objective: Teams will conduct research and create an onsite Research Poster on their findings. The Research Poster provides students with the opportunity to think critically about a health-related issue in their community, conduct research on that topic and develop a Research Poster and display their findings and present their research to a panel of judges.

Entries & Judging

Participants: MCS has a maximum of 12 time slots for teams of 2-4.

Submission: No submissions prior to FunFest are required.

SCC Head Judge: Sue Senior, Department Chair/Professor, Health Sciences

Judging Location: Participants create their posters in Little 180. Judging will take place in the Foundation Hall Lobby.

Determining the winner: Judges will use the rubric provided to score the teams on their poster and presentation. The highest rubric score wins.

In the Event of a tie: Judges will ask 2-3 questions to each team on their poster and research; the team that can answer these questions will be given 3 extra points to break the tie.

Competition Rules

Competition Topics: MCS will provide the three (4) possible topics to teachers prior to the event to allow time for research.

Research topics:

1. Is the Smartphone responsible for the current youth mental health crisis?
2. Benefits of regular exercise and healthy lifestyle choices.
3. Sleep Deprivation: Lack of adequate sleep is a crisis among teens, linked to poor concentration, mood problems, and increased risk of obesity and other issues.
4. Hygiene: Poor oral hygiene can lead to dental problems, including gum disease and the need for orthodontics.

On the day of the event: Teams participating in the Fun Fest Research Poster event will be given a Public Health issue that affects our community. The teams should bring their research to the competition, and they will have 30 minutes to utilize their prior research on topics to create a Research Poster. The poster board and additional supplies will be provided by MCS.

Teams should be able to answer questions on their research if asked. Teams will present their research findings to the judges in a professional manner. Teams should take no more than 5 minutes to share their research and poster with the judges.

The Research Poster Content:

The research poster will contain the following:

1. TITLE
 - a. The title should highlight the research to be conducted by the competitor and gain the attention of the viewers.
 - b. 100 words maximum
2. ABSTRACT
 - a. An abstract is a brief summary of the research.
 - b. Include the overall purpose of the study and the research problem(s) investigated.
 - c. Describe the basic design of the study of the objectives.
 - d. Explain the major findings found as a result of analysis.
 - e. Provide a brief summary of interpretations and conclusions.
 - f. 250 words maximum
3. METHODS
 - a. Describe the research methods that led to the results.
 - b. Identify the target population.
 - c. Explain how data was collected accurately.
 - d. Explain how the data was analyzed.
 - e. Explain possible errors and biases in the methods.
 - f. 200 words maximum
4. RESULTS
 - a. Describe qualitative and quantitative results.
 - b. Present the data analysis employed.
 - c. Explain why the results matter.
 - d. Use supportive charts and figures.
 - e. 200 words maximum
5. CONCLUSIONS
 - a. Emphasize the major results and try to convince why the results are interesting.
 - b. Explain the relevance of your findings to your community and our world.
 - c. 200 words maximum
6. REFERENCES
 - a. List the literature cited and gave guidance to the project.
 - b. American Psychological Association (APA) is the preferred resource in Health Sciences.
 - c. 100 words maximum
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
 - a. Thank anyone who helped make the project possible.
8. IMAGES

- a. Crunch the data into graphs, tables, statistics, and/or quotes that illustrate the findings. Include photos and illustrations that reflect the research. Use 2 to 5 images.
- b. Logos from community agencies involved in the research are acceptable.

Presentation & Poster Content						
	Excellent 10 points	Good 8 points	Average 6 points	Fair 4 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGES SCORE
Understanding of issue/topic	The Public Health issue/topic is clearly defined and streamlined into the presentation. The team shared the complexity of the public health issue	The public health issue/topic is stated and appropriate for the presentation. Understanding of the issue or topic is lacking small details	The understanding of the public health issue/topic is average and not fully threaded into the presentation	The public health issue/topic is not clearly communicated throughout the presentation	No evidence of understanding of public health issue or topic	

Flow and logic of content	The team demonstrated command of the topic throughout the presentation, it flows in a logical, clear, and informed manner. Excellent transitions between competitors	The team mentions the topic and its significance. The flow is mostly smooth and provides an informed approach to the material. Proficient transitions between competitors	The flow of the content is somewhat choppy and disjointed	The flow of the content is out of order and does not make sense	There is no evidence of flow or logic behind the presented content.	
Stage Presence (Poise, posture, eye contact, and enthusiasm)	Movements & gestures were purposeful and enhanced the delivery of the speech and did not distract. Body language reflects comfort interacting with audience. Facial expressions and body language consistently generated a strong interest and enthusiasm for the topic	The team maintained adequate posture and non-distracting movement during the speech. Some gestures were used. Facial expressions and body language sometimes generated an interest and enthusiasm for the topic	Stiff or unnatural use of non-verbal behaviors. Body language reflects some discomfort interacting with audience. Limited use of gestures to reinforce verbal message. Facial expressions and body language are used to try and generate enthusiasm but seem	The team's posture, body language, and facial expressions indicated a lack of enthusiasm for the topic. Movements were distracting.	No attempt was made to use body movement or gestures to enhance the message. No interest or enthusiasm for the topic came through in the presentation.	

			somewhat forced			
Title	A title is included, and the poster contains: competitor's name and school name	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poster not submitted or Title missing, or all requirements not met.	
References	At least one reference is included on the poster	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poster not submitted OR no references are included on the poster	