Papers in the Students' Competition will be evaluated in 3 areas:

1) *written title and abstract submitted by published deadline (10 pts);
2) presentation organization and delivery (60 pts);
3) quality of research (30 pts).

A total of 15 minutes will be allowed for each presentation (13-14 minutes for the presentation and 1-2 minutes for questions and changing speakers). Anyone attempting to go beyond the established time allotment will be asked to sit down. In the event of any presentation cancellations, the time slots published for each speaker in the AMCA program will remain as assigned.

Each paper will be scored by 3 judges selected by the coordinator of the competition and approved by the program committee chairman. The judges will attend the presentations and assign scores in the various categories. Judges will confer after the presentations and will select one competitor to receive the Hollandsworth Prize. The judges will have the discretion to award one runner-up and up to 2 Honorable Mention prizes.

The written title and abstract will be judged for clarity, organization, and grammar.

*Please keep in mind that an “abstract should be viewed as a miniversion of the paper” (Day, 1998). It should state the main objective, mention the methods, summarize results, and state conclusion. It is challenging to do this with the 75 word limit that students are given, but it can be done and it forces them to be succinct. A good abstract should not include the sentence “results will be presented”; it should actually summarize the results.

The oral presentation represents 60 points of the possible score of 100 and will be judged for organization, delivery (including sensitivity to the audience, effective use of available time, and quality of spoken English), clarity and effective use of visual aids.

The score for quality of research will be based on the information contained in the written abstract and covered during the formal presentation.

The score for significance of research should be based on how well the presentation represents the significance of the project and findings.

Competitors should understand that the point awards are subjective and that the various evaluation categories have been arbitrarily assigned point values.

Students eligible for the competition must be either 1) currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program (at the time of submitting the abstract) or 2) have graduated within 12 months of the abstract submission deadline date. The work presented must have been done while the presenter was enrolled in the undergraduate or graduate degree program.

All participants must be AMCA members in good standing at the time of the competition (AMCA staff will handle this).