Student Symposium 2019 – FAQ

1. **What are the official rules for participation?**
   No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. See Official Rules for complete details.

2. **What do the teams win?**
   The top eight teams will receive:
   - Up to $3,000 in travel reimbursement for hotel and airfare to attend and present at the conference. (The advising faculty member is responsible for the allocation of funds and submitting receipts for reimbursement. At a minimum, the faculty adviser and one student team member must attend SAS® Global Forum.)
   - Conference registration for up to four team members and one faculty adviser.
   - One free pre-conference tutorial for each team member and the faculty adviser in attendance at SAS Global Forum.
   - A 60% off coupon to purchase one SAS book at SAS Global Forum or online via the SAS Bookstore.
   - Recognition at the Academic Award Luncheon at SAS Global Forum and publicity for being one of the top eight teams.

   Each student from the top three teams will receive:
   - SAS certification exam voucher.
   - SAS certification prep guide book. (Note: Not all exams have a corresponding prep course.)

   Winning university programs will receive:
   - First place – five conference passes to attend SAS Global Forum 2020 (approximate value at $450 per pass).
   - Second place – four conference passes to attend SAS Global Forum 2020 (approximate value at $450 per pass).
   - Third place – three conference passes to attend SAS Global Forum 2020 (approximate value at $450 per pass).

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3. **What are the key dates?**
   Aug. 27-Nov. 16, 2018: Teams register to participate in the Student Symposium.
   Nov. 17, 2018-Jan. 25, 2019: Final papers must be submitted. All registered teams will receive an email in November with instructions on how to submit their final paper.
   March 1, 2019: Top eight teams are announced.
   April 28-May 1, 2019: SAS Global Forum, Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas.
   Each of the top eight teams will present its work in a 20-minute breakout session.

4. **Who is eligible to apply?**
   Students at least 18 years old who are enrolled in a full-time, accredited, degree-granting program who still have their full-time student status at the time of the conference (April 28-May 1, 2019). Teams must consist of two to four students and one advising faculty member (professor). The faculty member serves in an advisory role only. All work must be completed by the students. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. See Official Rules for complete details.

5. **How do I participate?**
Register your team online by **Nov. 16, 2018**. Note that on the registration form you will need to indicate a Team Lead. The Team Lead is the primary contact for your team for all communications.

You may use any publicly available data set that interests you, and also has real-world significance. This data set must be accessible by anyone. Data sets must be anonymized and not include any personally identifiable information or confidential information. You can use either SAS University Edition or SAS OnDemand for Academics to complete your analysis. Submit your team's final paper by Jan. 25, 2019. Detailed instructions will be emailed to all team members in November on how to submit the final paper.

6. **What should the final paper include?**
Students are expected to write a paper that defines the problem, describes the analysis performed, and presents the results in such a manner as to be of use in business, science, government, education, health care, etc. Students will be judged on the broad accessibility of results, so papers should be appropriately technical, but still understandable to a general, nontechnical audience. The paper must be two-five pages in length. The written paper must be in English and contain the following components:
- Introduction.
- Data.
- Problem.
- Data cleaning/validation.
- Analysis.
- Visualization (graphs, charts, etc.).
- Generalization.
- Suggestions for future studies.
- Conclusion.

7. **Where can I find helpful tips for submitting my paper?**
An email will be sent in November with detailed instructions on how to submit your paper.

8. **Do all students need to be from the same university?**
Yes, all students need to be from the same university.

9. **What criteria will be considered in choosing the semifinalists?**

The evaluation rubric is on a 10-point scale on the following items:
- Introduction: Is the introduction appropriate, and does it provide a concise lead-in to the report given?
- Data: Is the source of the data adequately documented?
- Problem: Is the problem(s) clearly defined, and are objectives of the study precisely given?
- Data cleaning/validation: Is the data cleaning process adequately explained?
- Analysis: Were appropriate analytical methods used and adequately explained?
- Visualization: Are appropriate graphics and visuals provided?
- Generalization: Are results provided for a general, nontechnical audience?
- Suggestions for future studies: Are issues for future studies/different problem approaches given?
- Conclusions: Are conclusions concisely given?

10. **What data can I use?**

    You may use any publicly available data set that interests you, and also has real-world significance. This data set must be accessible by anyone. Data sets must be anonymized and not include any personally identifiable information or confidential information. When registering for this competition, you will need to include the name of the data you plan to use, as well as the URL where the data resides, for verification. After we verify your data, you will receive an email (usually within two or three business days) with confirmation regarding your participation. Please see Official Rules for more details.

11. **Can I enroll as an individual?**

    No, this is a team competition.

12. **Can I participate in more than one team?**

    No. Students may only participate in one team; however, a faculty adviser may serve as the adviser for more than one team.

13. **Can I change or add team members?**

    Yes, but there is a maximum of four team members allowed. Send an email to symposium@sas.com to request changes.

14. **What is the role of the advising faculty member?**

    The faculty adviser should assist in the same context as would the major professor for a master's student working on a thesis. The faculty adviser can provide suggestions, advice, critique, review and, in a sense, serve the role of a coach. All work must be done by the students.

15. **What SAS software can I use for this competition?**

    Teams can use the following software:

    - SAS University Edition – download here.
    - SAS OnDemand for Academics – for access, please email symposium@sas.com.