The contest committee will use a weighted rubric to calculate a combined score for both abstracts and final projects. Criteria will be evaluated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory (1 point)</th>
<th>Developing (2 points)</th>
<th>Good (3 points)</th>
<th>Exemplary (4 points)</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10% Demonstrated research (abstract + final deliverable)</td>
<td>Does not identify sources</td>
<td>Identifies minimum required but trivial sources</td>
<td>Identifies minimum required and relevant sources</td>
<td>Identifies additional relevant sources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not include facts or data</td>
<td>Includes trivial facts and data</td>
<td>Includes significant facts and data</td>
<td>Relates significant facts and data to own ideas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Description of relevant issue and proposed STEM-based solution (abstract)</td>
<td>Does not meet word count</td>
<td>Almost meets word count</td>
<td>Meets word count</td>
<td>Exceeds word count effectively</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not provide clear details or description, issue may be trivial</td>
<td>Provides basic details but vague description of an issue</td>
<td>Provides important details and clear description of an issue</td>
<td>Provides important details and vivid description of an issue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not communicate a factual or perceived cause and effect</td>
<td>Communicates either a factual or perceived cause and effect</td>
<td>Communicates both factual and perceived causes and effects</td>
<td>Uses powerful language to communicate factual and perceived causes and effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not describe a STEM concept</td>
<td>Describes a specific STEM concept, does not clearly tie to the issue</td>
<td>Describes a specific STEM concept, loosely ties to the issue</td>
<td>Describes a specific STEM concept with a strong tie to the issue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% Development of proposed STEM-based solution (final deliverable)</td>
<td>Does not describe an original idea to address a known problem</td>
<td>Does not clearly describe an original idea to address a known problem</td>
<td>Describes an original idea to address a known problem</td>
<td>Details a highly innovative idea to address a known problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not explain how the solution would work</td>
<td>Provides incomplete explanation of how the solution would work</td>
<td>Provides general explanation of how the solution would work</td>
<td>Provides thorough explanation of how the solution would work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not communicate who would benefit from the solution or how</td>
<td>Effectively communicates who would benefit from the solution but not how</td>
<td>Vaguely communicates who would benefit from the solution and how</td>
<td>Effectively communicates who would benefit from the solution and how</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design is unpolished and conventional, format is difficult to use/view</td>
<td>Design is unpolished or conventional, format is easy to use/view</td>
<td>Design is polished and unique, format is interesting to use/view</td>
<td>Design is visually appealing and highly creative, format is fun to use/view</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content does not help audience understand or care about the issue and solution</td>
<td>Content helps audience understand the issue and solution but lacks inspiration</td>
<td>Content helps audience understand and care about the issue and solution</td>
<td>Content helps audience understand and deeply care about the issue and solution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not include instructions or introduction</td>
<td>Includes unclear and incomplete instructions or introduction</td>
<td>Includes basic instructions or introduction</td>
<td>Includes comprehensive instructions or introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not address the theme</td>
<td>Addresses but does not reflect full comprehension of the theme</td>
<td>Reflects understanding of the theme</td>
<td>Demonstrates critical thinking in response to the theme (IT or Engineering Design)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content is poorly edited with ineffective word choice</td>
<td>Content is fairly well-edited with clear word choice</td>
<td>Content is well-edited with effective word choice</td>
<td>Content is very well-edited with compelling word choice</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not clarify main points and lacks organization</td>
<td>Summarizes main points but lacks effective organization</td>
<td>Illustrates main points but lacks effective organization</td>
<td>Vividly illustrates main points and is well-organized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finished product is of poor quality</td>
<td>Finished product is of decent quality</td>
<td>Finished product is of good quality</td>
<td>Finished product is of exceptional quality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>