ANSI 2027 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

THEME: Would You Trust It? Exploring How Standards Build Confidence in Products, Services, and Emerging Technologies



SUBMISSION DEADLINE
JUNE 11, 2027

ANSI

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and its Committee on Education invite high school and college students nationwide to enter the 2027 Student Paper Competition. **Entries are due by June 11, 2027.**

The sixteenth annual competition's theme is "Would You Trust It? Exploring How Standards Build Confidence in Products, Services, and Emerging Technologies." Students are invited to explore the connection between trust and standards: What standards help make the things we buy, use, and depend on safe, reliable, and worthy of our confidence?

ABOUT THE 2027 THEME:

From the moment our phone alarm wakes us up to the time we plug it in to charge overnight, we trust countless products and services we can't see or test ourselves. We wear helmets to ride an e-bike, tap a card to pay, and use an app to order meals straight to our door—rarely stopping to ask why we feel so confident doing it.

For 2027, students are asked to investigate a simple but powerful question: What makes something trustworthy, and how do standards help get it there? For example, how do you know the helmet you wear for sports will effectively protect your head? What keeps an e-bike battery from catching fire? Why is it safe to enter your credit card number online? Would you trust a drone to deliver your order to the right doorstep?

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: Lisa Rajchel (lrajchel@ansi.org)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

All entries must meet the requirements below. Each qualifying submission will receive a $20 gift card and certificate of submission for the student. The winning high school paper will receive a $1,000 prize; the winning paper submitted by a student from an institution of higher learning will receive a $1,500 prize. ANSI reserves the right to award no prizes based on the judges' determination.

Winning entries will be published on ansi.org and potentially in other media outlets. Winning submissions will be shared widely with the domestic and international standards community, including experts in government, industry, professional societies, and academic institutions. Submissions must be original work (not AI-generated) and must not have been previously published.

Publicity and consent: By submitting an entry, students (and, for students under eighteen, a parent or guardian) agree that winning papers may be published by ANSI and that winners may be invited to take part in interviews, promotional materials, and a compiled publication of winning papers.

- Include a title and list of names of all contributing authors, their contact details, and the affiliated high school or institution of higher learning
- Preface with an abstract of no more than 400 words
- Fewer than 2,000 words (not including the abstract or any notes, tables, charts, and bibliography, which may not exceed three pages)
- Written in English and suitable for publication (final editing assistance will be provided by ANSI before winning papers are published)
- Submitted in an editable electronic format, such as Microsoft Word (no PDFs, please) in 12-point font

RESEARCH AREAS:

Choose one of the three focus areas below and explore how standards build confidence within it:

Products—Put Trust to the Test: The Standards Behind the Stuff You Buy, Wear, and Use

- Sports Equipment, Clothing, and Wearables (helmet impact testing, flame-resistant children's sleepwear, care labels, fitness trackers and smartwatches)
- Autonomous and Micromobility Vehicles (self-driving car safety and testing, e-bike and e-scooter battery fires, collision safety)
- Food Safety (preventing and detecting the most common foodborne pathogens, such as *Salmonella, Listeria, E. coli*, and norovirus)

Services—Put Trust to the Test: Standards That Protect What You Share, Order, and Pay For

- Social Media and E-Commerce (online privacy, age verification, secure payments, banking and card-security standards)
- Food Delivery (drone delivery safety, temperature control in transit, allergen and ingredient labeling, tamper-evident packaging)

Emerging Technology—Put Trust to the Test: Standards That Help New Technology Earn Our Confidence and Gain Adoption

- Artificial Intelligence (transparency, testing, risk management, responsible use)
- Biometrics (fingerprint, face, and voice recognition; accuracy, spoofing prevention, protecting personal data)

Have another idea? Propose your own topic, subject to approval, by contacting Lisa Rajchel (lrajchel@ansi.org).

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

ANSI has developed a list of suggested resources for research and references:

- Access **materials for K–12 students** to learn more about voluntary consensus standards and American National Standards
- Search a **list of approved American National Standards**
- Search the **organizations accredited by ANSI to develop American National Standards**
- Search for international standards from the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**
- Search for international electrotechnical standards from the **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)**
- Check out some **user-friendly ANSI resources** that show the breadth of standards' impact
- Read more about consumer safety, digital trust, AI, and other topics on **ANSI's online news archive** or **ansi.org**
- Read about the **2026 competition winners**

Winning papers will be announced in August 2027.

For more info, contact Lisa Rajchel: lrajchel@ansi.org | 212-642-4932