Standards and technical regulations impact more than 93% of global trade, but they are often unsung heroes that go unnoticed by the general public.

To help foster greater awareness about the importance of standardization, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 2017 Student Paper Competition asks you to imagine “The World in 2050.”

Your paper should consider what such a world would be like. What role did standards play in making the world you see possible? Think of innovations like smart phones and the Internet of Things, which rely upon standards to create a whole new way of communicating and interacting with the world around us. How much farther will we have come in 2050, and how will standards have played a part in our advancement?

All entries must be submitted by 5 pm ET on April 28, 2017, to lrajchel@ansi.org, and adhere to the following:

- Must be written and submitted by student(s) (associate, undergraduate, or graduate, in any discipline) enrolled full- or part-time during the period of September 2016 to April 2017 in a U.S. higher education institution
- Must have a title, a list of names of all contributing authors and their contact details, and affiliated academic institution
- Must be prefaced with an abstract of no more than 400 words
- 2,000 words maximum (not including notes, tables, charts, and bibliography, which may not exceed 3 pages)
- In English and suitable for publication (assistance will be offered for final editing before publication of winning paper)
- Electronic format only, preferably Microsoft Word or other revisable format, in 12-point type size
- Must be original and not previously published (copyright will remain with the author; winners grant publication rights to ANSI, as well as the right to release entries to other media)

All submissions will be reviewed by top-level industry experts, and winning papers will be published on ANSI.org, StandardsBoostBusiness.org, StandardsLearn.org, and potentially in other media outlets. Winning submissions will be read by a large number of members of the standards community, including experts in government, industry, professional societies, and academic institutions. Cash prizes will be given to first- and second-place winners; ANSI reserves the right to award no prizes based on the determination of the judges. Winning papers will be announced in June 2017.