

How To SpaceVision: Competitions

*A guide to help you understand and participate in
SpaceVision opportunities*



Launch Into Competition

SpaceVision is an incredible opportunity for students to get their footing in industry, gain experience in a professional setting, interact with like-minded peers, and learn about the past, present, and future of space. SpaceVision hosts a plethora of events to engage students, including industry-led panels, seminars, an Astronaut Fireside Chat, and a career fair. In addition to these events, we host 4 competitions to test your skills, develop yourself professionally, and showcase your abilities to a larger SEDS audience. This guide is designed to help you understand each competition, the rules and rubric, and the application requirement so you're prepared to make your mark at SpaceVision 2026.

This guide is split into three sections: Competitions, Individual Breakdowns, and Awards. Competitions will provide an overview of what competitions at SpaceVision look like. Individual Breakdowns will describe the rules, rubric, registration process, and tips for each competition. Awards will describe the individual and chapter awards that can be applied to at SpaceVision.

Competitions

Competitions are at the heart of SpaceVision, designed specifically to allow students to challenge themselves, showcase their ideas, and develop skills that will prepare them for the future of the space industry.

Applications are open now, so take the leap and apply for the competition that best matches your interests and strengths. Each competition highlights a different aspect of the space industry, allowing students to explore policy, entrepreneurship, innovation, research, and more while gaining valuable experience in communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving.

This year, SpaceVision will host four competitions: **Policy Debate, Research Symposium, Business Pitch Competition, and Lightning Talks**. Each offering a unique platform for learning, competing, and connecting with the broader space community.

Your ideas and ability are showcased to more than just other students. All competitions are moderated, judged, or watched by industry and academic leaders too!

Rules & Rubrics

The first thing to check is the rules and rubrics; we highly recommend carefully reviewing each competition's rules and rubrics before taking the next steps to register. Now, these competitions do not require a faculty advisor or a proposal submission, but each has its own restrictions or requirements, and we advise that you make sure you are aware of them.

Where to find them?

A full set of rules/rubrics can be found in this guide; brief overviews can also be found on the SpaceVision26 website at spacevision.seds.org.

Who is allowed to apply?

All SEDS-affiliated students *attending SpaceVision26* are permitted to register for competitions. SpaceVision competitions must be held in-person to ensure equality for participants, but keep your eye out for remote-based competitions after SpaceVision concludes!

Where can I register?

After reviewing the rules and rubrics of the competitions that interest you, you can find the registration links on the SpaceVision26 website at spacevision.seds.org.

Tip: Register for competitions as early as you can. If major details change, you may contact members.at.large@seds.org or rescind your registration up to a month before SpaceVision26 by emailing members.at.large@seds.org

Prizes

We are proud to announce that the Research Symposium and Business Pitch Competition are Prized Competitions!

Participating in these competitions gives students more than the opportunity to present their work on a national stage; it gives them the chance to compete for a prize while gaining valuable experience and recognition.

Whether you are showcasing groundbreaking research or pitching the next big idea in the space industry, this is your opportunity to put your skills to the test in front of industry professionals and fellow students.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in either competition win you cash prizes, and all participants gain valuable feedback, exposure, and experience that can help take their ideas to the next level. Bring your best work, step into the spotlight, and see where your ideas can take you!

Gala

The best for last! At SpaceVision, our After-Conference Gala is the place to connect directly with our speakers, industry professionals, and other SEDS members.

Through the SpaceVision Gala, you can grow your network directly as we recap the conference, introduce the new SEDS USA Board, and, most importantly, ***name the winners of the competitions.***

We encourage all members to attend the SV26 Gala, regardless of competition status, to wrap up the conference in style. Receive exclusive information on next year's SpaceVision, free food, drinks, and merch, cheer on your fellow students, and meet next year's Board of Directors for only \$50. You can purchase a Gala ticket during your initial SpaceVision registration or add one later.

If your eyes are set on a competition, be aware that attending the Gala is a requirement for almost all competitions. There is **no entry fee for competitions**, but we believe that all participants should be present to hear the results and collect

prizes in-person. If you are concerned about the price of a Gala ticket and believe it may prevent you from participating in a competition, contact members.at.large@seds.org.

Competition Overview

Competition	Summary
Policy Debate	A student-led policy debate focused on orbital governance and the growing strategic importance of space. Students will debate whether a world government should prevent non-compliant countries from granting access to orbital slots while developing valuable skills in public speaking, critical thinking, research, and persuasive communication. The debate will include four student-led keynotes, 20 minutes of open discussion, and a panel judge Q&A, giving students opportunities to confidently present their ideas, respond to opposing viewpoints, and think on their feet. The event will conclude with a vote to affirm or negate the resolution, allowing students to put their debate and communication skills into practice.
Lightning Talks	SEDS is excited to introduce its first-ever student-led Lightning Talk at SpaceVision26, giving students the opportunity to present abstracts and ideas related to a specific theme. This event helps students build valuable skills in public speaking, research development, and communicating complex ideas to a broader audience. Students will also have the opportunity to connect with industry experts and expand their professional network with others who share their interests. Take the chance to showcase your ideas, receive feedback, and engage with the larger SEDS community.
Business Pitch Competition	Launch the future at SpaceVision26's Business Pitch Competition, where students will develop and pitch their own startup ideas based on a specific theme. This one-day event helps students build valuable skills in entrepreneurship, finance, business strategy, public speaking, and pitching ideas to potential investors. Participants will also create an executive summary outlining their investment needs, target customers, revenue model, and overall business plan. Whether competing individually or as a team, students will gain hands-on experience turning an idea into a

	business while connecting with others and exploring new perspectives on the space industry.
Research Symposium	The SpaceVision26 Research Symposium offers students a unique opportunity to showcase their research on a national stage to SEDS students, professionals, and space industry leaders. Whether you are an independent researcher, university-affiliated, or representing your SEDS chapter, this event allows you to strengthen your skills in research communication, technical presentation, and professional networking. Participants will present their work to a panel of industry-expert judges, gaining valuable feedback and exposure across a wide range of space-related topics, from satellite design and sustainability to lunar economics and mission simulations. Research posters will also be featured on the SEDS USA website, giving students an even greater platform to share their work and connect with the broader space community.

Individual Breakdowns

Policy Debate

A student-led policy debate allowed students to take control of the argument for pivotal policy in an ever growing and rapidly changing space industry.

Resolution: "*The United Nations should establish a binding International Space Traffic Management Organization (ISTMO) with the authority to deny orbital slot access to non-compliant sovereign states.*"

Why should I register for Policy Debate?

The recognition of the importance of strategic, robust, and effective policy in the domestic and global space industry cannot be understated. If your interests lie towards law, policy development, governance, or public speaking: this is *definitely* the competition for you.

What does the application look like?

We will ask you about contact information, your previous debate experiences, which side of the debate you would prefer to argue for, and a short response for an affirmative resolution.

Do I need experience?

No! Don't feel intimidated if you've never been on a debate team, or even if you're not going into a policy-based major. Applications are open to anyone who is passionate about the future of Space Policy and wants to engage in discussion over our topic. A well structured short response section of the application is infinitely more important than prior experience.

What skills can I gain?

Policy Debate is a *moderated debate* and as such by participating in this competition, you can develop valuable skills in public speaking, critical thinking, research, and persuasive communication. Additionally, you can gain a deeper knowledge and foundational understanding of arguing and developing a robust policies. All the while, our judges can provide you constructive criticism to help you develop even further.

What does the debate structure look like?

- 12-min discussion between the 4 student-led keynotes
- 20 minutes of open discussion
- 5-10 minute panel judge Q&A
- 5-10 minute judge feedback and selection of winning side

Keynote Speakers

4 student keynote speakers will be selected through the registration form to lead the Policy Debate, with speakers **assigned** to argue **either for or against** the resolution: *whether a world government should control access to orbital slots for non-compliant countries.*

If you are not selected for a keynote speaker, you are still able to voice your opinions and ask keynotes questions during the open discussion section. We strongly encourage all applicants to still attend the debate if you are not selected.

Each side will have two designated speakers who will work together beforehand to develop their research, stance, and key arguments, while opponents will not be revealed in advance to encourage an authentic debate. We will take your position request into consideration, but **particularly strong applicants may be assigned against their requested stance** to even out the sides.

The four speakers will have a total of **12 minutes**, alternating in **3-minute speaking periods**, with each speaker given uninterrupted time to present their argument and respond to the opposing side. Two additional speakers will be selected as **designated alternates** to step in if a selected keynote speaker is unable to participate, ensuring the debate can proceed smoothly.

Through their role as keynote speakers, students will take the lead in shaping the discussion, defending their position, challenging opposing arguments, and demonstrating their skills in research, public speaking, critical thinking, and debate.

Rules

1. Selecting Keynote Speakers
 1. Keynote speakers will chosen via the registration form
 2. 4 Keynote speakers will be selected to debate for or against the resolution
2. Selected keynote speakers
 1. Selected Keynote speakers will have a total of **12 minutes to speak**, each side will have **3 minutes** to debate back and forth.
 2. Every keynote speaker will have all 3 minutes to speak without interruption, or else lost time will be added to their time slot. If the total interruption is

- negligible (<5-10 seconds), lost time won't be added back.
3. Keynote speakers should be aware of who their partner is to exchange their research, stance, and debate topics beforehand via email at least 4 weeks before the competition itself.
 4. Keynote speakers will not know who their opponents are
 3. Keynote Alternatives
 1. Selected keynote alternatives will be selected to debate for a side **AT RANDOM**
 2. If an alternative is not needed:
 1. Alternatives are allowed to provide a **2 minute open-discussion speech**. They will be selected to provide a 2 minute open discussion speech, where they discuss their stance on the topic, ask questions to keynote speakers, and provide **CONSTRUCTIVE** criticism. See section 4 for rules on Open Discussion
 4. Open discussion will last 20 minutes with **10 2-minute long speeches**.
 1. A speaker will be cut off by the moderator if they exceed 2 minutes, including a keynote alternative. All open discussion speakers will be selected at random, except for the alternatives.
 5. Questions
 1. Judges and moderators will ask **4** questions in total
 1. 1 to each keynote speaker
 2. Audience may ask question if there is time remaining (+5 minute)
 6. Voting
 1. Judges, moderator, and audience vote online
 2. Judges votes decides winner of policy debate, audience is for crowd polling
 3. During the closing section, judges provide feedback for keynote speakers and the way in they voted

Rubric

The winner will not necessarily be determined by which side wins the debate. If a student has exceptionally strong debate, composure, and articulation skills, they will be considered the winner regardless of if their side succeeded. This competition does not have a cash prize as it is amongst only 4 students, so all keynote speakers receive virtually the same benefit of participating.

POLICY DEBATE SCORING RUBRIC

100 points total

Scoring scale: 4 = exceptional mastery; 3 = strong/proficient; 2 = developing/partially effective; 1 = limited; 0 = absent or fundamentally inadequate. Convert the 0–4 rating to the criterion's weighted points: 0 = 0 points, 1 = 2.5 points, 2 = 5 points, 3 = 7.5 points, 4 = 10 points

Topic	Description	Scoring
1. Technical Accuracy	Scores the speaker on their ability to convey <i>accurate</i> technical claims related to the resolution	30 pts
Technical literacy (LEO/GEO, debris)	Demonstrates accurate understanding of orbital environments, including LEO/GEO, orbital congestion, debris, collision risk, satellite operations, and relevant technical constraints. Uses technical concepts accurately and explains them in terms a policy audience can understand. Strong teams distinguish between what orbital mechanics makes possible, what is technically difficult, and what is simply a policy choice.	10 pts
Policy feasibility (OST, economics)	Explains whether the proposed international restriction <i>could or could not</i> be implemented. Addresses relevant international law and institutions, especially the Outer Space Treaty (OST) and related norms, as well as enforcement, state sovereignty, incentives, monitoring, economic consequences, and feasibility for different types of space actors.	10 pts
Use of credible evidence	Uses <i>relevant, credible, and cited evidence</i> to establish key factual and causal claims. Evidence should come from authoritative sources when possible and should directly support the argument. Strong teams explain why the evidence matters, provide context to the evidence, and distinguish evidence from assertion or speculation.	10 pts
2. Rebuttal Strength	Scores the ability of speakers to robustly address the oppositions positions and claims without breaking down their own position.	30 pts
Responsiveness to opponent's points	Directly engages the opposing team's strongest economic and policy objections rather than answering a weaker version of the argument. Identifies the opponent's claim, explains the point of disagreement, and uses warrants and evidence to show why the team's position is superior. Strong responses compare impacts, likelihood, scale, and feasibility and explain why their weighing should control the decision.	15 pts
Cross-examination effectiveness	Uses cross-examination to clarify assumptions, expose contradictions, test evidence, and create material concessions. Questions are concise, strategic, and connected to the team's case. Strong cross-examination does more than seek information: it develops arguments for rebuttal and forces the opponent to defend specific mechanisms, costs, enforcement assumptions, or unintended consequences.	15 pts

3. Speaker Clarity	How well speakers are able to convey a complex policy to a large audience simply but robustly.	20 pts
Clarity & tone, non-expert audience	Explains technical and policy concepts without unnecessary jargon. Defines specialized terms, uses concrete examples, and maintains a professional, persuasive tone. Strong teams will be able to complex orbital issues understandable to a non-expert judge while preserving technical accuracy. Claims are stated precisely enough that the opponent and judge can meaningfully evaluate them.	10 pts
Logical flow & organization	Presents a coherent chain from problem to mechanism to outcome: what is wrong, what the policy does, why it changes behavior, and why the resulting effects matter. Arguments are clearly signposted, and responses build on one another.	10 pts
4. Presentation	How effectively the team delivers its arguments under timed conditions and presents an overall compelling position to the judge and audience	20 pts
Time management	The team develops its most important arguments rather than rushing through them or spending excessive time on low-value points. Speakers reserve sufficient time for responses, weighing, and crystallization, and finish cleanly without sacrificing essential analysis.	10 pts
Closing impact & lasting impression	Ends with a clear, persuasive explanation of what the judge should believe and why. The conclusion provides a call-to-action, weighs the most important impacts, and connects the decision back to the resolution and the policy's consequences. Strong closings successfully reduce the debate to a compelling reason to vote for the team.	10 pts

Important scoring principle: Score the quality of the team's reasoning and debate performance, not whether the scorer personally agrees with the policy.

Registration Requirements

The Policy Debate is open to *all SEDS members* **present at SpaceVision26 and part of an active SEDS Chapter.**

- *Position Statement [refer to registration form for more information]*
- *Preferred Side*
- *SEDS-Affiliation Status*
- *Proof of SV ticket [required after registration]*

We encourage all interested SEDS students to attend, participate, and share their perspective!

Registration Form

Refer to SV26 Website: spacevision.seds.org

Gala Ticket

REQUIRED - please reach out to members.at.large@seds.org with any questions or concerns.

Lightning Talks

We are excited to introduce our **first-ever** student-led Lightning Talk at SpaceVision26. Lightning Talk gives students the opportunity to present abstracts and novel ideas related to a specific theme.

Lightning Talks Theme: ***Exploring longevity in space: addressing life systems and propulsion during space travel.***

By presenting a short form related to this year's theme, students are able to build skills in research development, writing abstracts, public speaking, and communicating complex ideas. Take the chance to showcase your ideas, receive feedback, and engage with the larger SEDS community.

Understanding The Topic

This year's theme explores the concept that humanity lurks toward as further develop novel rocket propulsion technology and futuristic technology to let humans reach further than any man. With NASA's urgent push to build a Lunar Moon Base by 2030, the possibility of human settlement on Moon is no longer sci-fi, but a distant achievement.

To that effect, our theme asks you to explore addressing present research, solutions, or novel concepts exploring the ways life systems can be improved to sustain long-term space travel and additionally, developing powerful propulsion methods to achieve accelerate sustainable space travel.

Mastering a Lightning Talk

Lightning talk presentations are very open-ended. As long as you abide by the rules outlined below, you are free to present in any manner, on any topic. Given that these are more unstructured, we have tips that may help you come up with a topic idea and properly structure your presentation.

For Your Talk

- **Start with the problem:** Clearly explain the challenge your research or idea is trying to solve.
- **Keep it focused:** Choose **one strong idea** and build your presentation around it.
- **Think beyond today:** Show how your concept could help humans live, travel, or thrive farther from Earth.
- **Highlight innovation:** Explain what makes your approach different or better than existing solutions.
- **Show the impact:** Connect your idea to the future of sustainable space exploration.
- **Tell a story:** Take your audience from the **problem → solution → future impact**.
- **Practice your delivery:** Speak clearly, stay confident, and avoid relying too heavily on notes.
- **End with a vision:** Leave the audience with a memorable idea about how your research could shape the future of space exploration.

For Your Slideshow (optional, but encouraged)

- **Keep slides simple:** Use short phrases and key points rather than paragraphs of text.
- **Let visuals do the work:** Use diagrams, images, graphs, or models to explain complex concepts quickly and avoid long sentences.
- **One idea per slide:** Avoid overcrowding your slides with too much information.
- **Make your research easy to follow:** Organize your slides in a clear progression from the problem to your proposed solution and its impact.
- **Highlight the key takeaway:** Make your most important finding, innovation, or concept stand out.
- **Use data strategically:** Include graphs or statistics when they strengthen your argument, but explain orally what the audience should take away from them.

- **Design for the audience:** Make sure text is large, readable, and visible from a distance. Avoid strong serif fonts.
- **Practice with your slides:** Time yourself while presenting so you know exactly how long to spend on each slide. You will be cut off for time if you run over.

Rules

1. Lightning Talks will be presented individually
 - a. No team presentations are allowed unless prior approval from BoD
2. All individual presentations are given 10 minutes to speak about their topic/research with an additional 5 minutes for a Q&A session
 - a. **Total presentation time is 15 minutes**
3. All abstracts submitted can be student-led, independent, or faculty-advised research as long as the presenter is affiliated with a SEDS chapter
 - a. *Presenters must provide consent by the faculty advisor for presenting their work given that their research is funded by the faculty, university, or associated with an affiliated research lab by the faculty advisor*
 - b. *All posters exhibit university logos must confirm that their research has been directly approved or funded by the university*
4. All Lightning Talks require an abstract to be submitted during the registration process
 - a. Presenters do not need any supplemental materials or a finished paper to present
5. Supplemental virtual visual materials are allowed
 - a. Videos, prerecorded content, or audio content is not allowed
 - b. Extra time will not be allotted for technical difficulties
 - c. AI-generated visuals are *not permitted*
6. Lightning Talks are meant to showcase student research and provide students an opportunity to talk about their work and therefore is not a scored competition with awards
 - a. Students may have the opportunity to receive feedback about their presentation, research/topic during the Q&A session
7. Students already registered for other competitions are allowed to participate in Lightning Talks
 - a. If a student's pre-registered competition and Lightning Talk time interfere with one another, please address the Member-At Large through the event app to cancel their Lightning Talk
 - b. Students registered for research symposium are allowed to participate
 - i. The presenter must **not** reuse their symposium poster for their Lightning Talk presentation
 - ii. The presenter cannot use Lightning Talks as a way to influence judges for

the Research Symposium

8. Lightning Talk will be a capped event, therefore students already registered for Research Symposium will be considered last for registration and *may be denied if the abstract for their research are the same*

Guidelines

**Lightning Talk is not a formally scored competition and does not have a rubric*

Lightning Talk Guidelines

Organization & Flow	The presentation has a compelling introduction, logical progression, and memorable conclusion. Ideas transition seamlessly and remain within the allotted time.
Communication & Delivery	The speaker is confident, engaging, and speaks clearly with excellent pacing, eye contact, and enthusiasm. Minimal reliance on notes.
Visual Aids (if used)	Slides or visuals are professional, easy to read, visually appealing, and strongly enhance the presentation without distracting from it.
Audience Engagement	The speaker effectively explains complex ideas and responds thoughtfully to questions.
Innovation & Feasibility	Presentation clearly communicates why the work matters, demonstrates originality, and leaves a lasting impression.

Registration Requirements

The Lightning Talk is open to *all SEDS members present at SpaceVision26 and a part of an active SEDS Chapter.*

- *Lightning Talk Abstract*
- *SEDS-Affiliation Status*
- *Proof of SV ticket [required after registration]*

We encourage all interested SEDS students to attend and participate!

Registration Form

Refer to SV26 Website: spacevision.seds.org

Gala Ticket

REQUIRED - please reach out to members.at.large@seds.org with any questions or concerns.

Business Pitch Competition

TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Follow SEDS USA on Instagram and Discord for updates or check spacevision.seds.org for updates.

All SEDS-affiliated individuals or team presentations are encouraged to apply to this year's Business Pitch Competition. Through this competition, you can explore for entrepreneurial side and create your own startup idea; all the while exploring stakeholders, customer base, business models, and product development to back it up.

The Business Pitch Competition is aimed to provide students with a platform to gain their entrepreneurial and finance skills to provide their own outlook on the industry.

Mastering an Executive Summary

The Business Pitch Competition requires the submission of an Executive Summary to present to judges at the time of your pitch. From there, you have about 10 minutes to “wow” the judges with your startup idea. Judges will use your executive summary and presentation to understand your business and supplementary entities to score your pitch and follow up with questions or clarification.

As such, a good executive summary can make or break your business pitch.

An executive summary needs to consist of four elements:

- A summary of your project
- Key stakeholders
- Secondary stakeholders
- Required partnerships, patent registration or sponsorships

TIP #1: Refer to rubric to understand the most important aspects to include in your pitch, visual presentation [if necessary], and executive summary

TIP #2: Use *less words* and more visuals. Think diagrams, hierarchy charts, tables. Make it easy to understand your business by making it simple.

TIP #3: Numbers! Try to do as much research about your product and its potential expectations in the current market. Include profit estimates, initial investments/upfront costs, customer base.

TIP #4: Understand your premise inside and out, but focus on the big picture. Given

that you have 10 minutes to convey your business, focus on its desirability, feasibility, and viability in your market.

TIP #5: Stakeholders do not always just have a *financial* interest in a company. Leverage different opportunities for organizations to benefit, bolster, or grow from your company.

TIP #6: *Clearly distinguish* your primary and secondary stakeholders.

TIP #7: An executive summary should serve as story of your business: *what is it and why do we need it, who is involved and what do they gain, and what do you need to make it happen.*

1. Summary

- Define a overarching statement: what is your business, what problem does it address, and what is the solution.
- Explain your business' purpose in concise statements
- Highlight your business by explaining its value within its market
- Include the expected outcome or impact [*numbers*]

2. Key Stakeholders

- A stakeholder is a person, entity, or organization that has an interest in a business whose position is affected by the business outcome.
- Identify the people or organizations that are **directly involved in or affected by the project**.
- Explain each stakeholder's role or interest.
- Consider customers, project owners, employees, investors, decision-makers, or end users.

3. Secondary Stakeholders

- Secondary Stakeholders are groups that are ***indirectly affected or provide support***.
 - e.g: local communities, suppliers, regulators
- Briefly explain how each group connects to the business.

4. Required Partnerships, Patent Registration, or Sponsorships

- Identify any outside organizations needed to make the business successful.
- Define what partnerships, licensing, patents, or funding is required for the product or service to be released for sale.
- Identify some potential sponsors or partners and *explain* their contributions

- Identify regulatory or legal hurdles

Rules

1. Contestant(s) will only be allocated 10 minutes for their pitch
 - a. Contestants will take 2 minutes Q&A from judges
 - b. Contestants will take 2 minutes Q&A from the room
2. Judges will use the rubric attached in this document to determine the overall score of the contestant's pitch
3. 1-2 page business pitch are required to be provided panel judges during the pitch
 - a. Pitch Template is an executive summary of
 - i. Summary of project
 - ii. Key stakeholders
 - iii. Secondary stakeholders
 - iv. Required partnerships, patent registration or sponsorships
4. Supplemental material of any form is permitted
 - a. All supplemental materials must be declared at least 72 hours before the start of the competition
5. Contestants will need to register at least 2 weeks before the SpaceVision conference to ensure ample time slots are provided
6. Contestants must submit their pitch deck before the day of the competition to confirm their commitment
 - a. Contestants are permitted to use any other medium for their pitch as long as it declared before the competition
7. Top 3 contestants will receive prize money
 - a. 1st: \$500
 - b. 2nd: \$250
 - c. 3rd: \$100

Rubric

Criteria	Great - 4	Good - 3	Fair - 2	Needs Improvement - 1
Problem Identification	Problem is clearly identified, details outside of the prompt are well thought-out Clearly state which category you are addressing; backup systems	Problem is identified, includes details outside of the prompt	Problem is considered, details are lacking somewhat	Problem is not stated or clearly defined, no details are considered outside of the prompt
Solution Potential (Financial)	Solution or business model has great financial potential with potential roadblocks and pitfalls carefully considered	Solution has good financial potential with most potential issues considered to some extent	Solution has some financial potential, but potential issues have only received surface-level consideration	The concept is not financially sustainable, with several obvious issues not receiving any consideration at all
Solution Potential (Technology)	Solution relies almost completely on currently existing technology, and any hypothetical technology required could feasibly exist in the next 10-15 years	Solution relies mostly on currently-existing technology, and any hypothetical technology required could be developed in the next 10-15 years	Solution relies somewhat on currently-existing technology, and any hypothetical technology required would require at least 20 years of concerted effort to develop	Solution does not take advantage of any current technology, and any hypothetical technology required is either scientifically impossible to develop or is impractical for the purposes of this scenario

Presentation	Presentation is clearly understood without needing many clarifications, able to answer questions easily and additional details	Presentation is understood, may need some clarifications, able to answer most questions sufficiently	Presentation is difficult to understand at times but concept is mostly understood, answers most questions in some detail	Concept is not clearly explained or is difficult to understand, unable to answer questions with much detail
Originality	Idea is interesting and unique, doesn't immediately come to mind when reading the prompt	Idea is fairly unique or is a unique twist on an existing proposal	Idea takes inspiration from existing proposals but adds a new element	Idea is fairly obvious or is mostly or entirely based off of existing proposals

Registration Requirements

The Business Pitch Competition is open to *all SEDS members present at SpaceVision26 and a part of an active SEDS Chapter.*

- *SEDS-Affiliation Status*
- *Proof of SV ticket [required after registration]*
- *Executive Summary [required after registration]*
- *Team or Individual Presentation status [contact members.at.large@sed.s.org to change this after registration, if necessary]*

We encourage all interested SEDS students to attend and participate!

Registration Form

Refer to SV26 Website: spacevision.seds.org

Gala Ticket

REQUIRED - please reach out to members.at.large@seds.org with any questions or concerns.

Research Symposium

The SV26 Research Symposium offers students the ability to showcase their research on a national level to greater SEDS community. Through the Research Symposium, your research can get exposure to space-industry leaders, professors, companies, and many more.

Whether you are an independent researcher, university-affiliated, or representing your SEDS chapter, this event allows you to strengthen your skills in research communication, technical presentation, and professional networking. You are able to present either as team or as an individual.

New this year, research posters will **also be featured on the SEDS USA website**, giving students an even greater platform to share their work and connect with the broader space community.

Poster Guidelines

- All posters must be 36 inches high and 48 inches wide.
- All posters must adhere to SV poster heading and labelling as provided *after registration*
- All posters must include the SEDS-USA Logo, Chapter Logo, and university logo (***if university-affiliated or funded university only***)

research during the symposium

2. Each researcher or team will be given 10 minute slot to explain their research or project
3. A 5 minute Q&A session will follow after the judges
4. A 5 minute feedback session will follow the Q&A session
5. All research presented can be student-led or faculty advised research
 - a. Presenters must provide consent by the faculty advisor for presenting their work given that their research is funded by the faculty, university, or associated with an affiliated research lab by the faculty advisor
 - b. All posters exhibit university logos must confirm that their research has been directly approved or funded by the university
6. All students' work will be judged solely by the validity of the work, and not by their affiliations
7. No last-minute submissions will be accepted, all research submissions will be closed 3 weeks before the start of SpaceVision 2026.
8. Top 3 contestants will receive prize money
 - a. 1st: \$750
 - b. 2nd: \$500
 - c. 3rd: \$250

Rubric

Criteria	Expert - 4	Proficient - 3	Apprentice - 2	Novice - 1	Score
Organization / Flow	Navigation is explicitly indicated with numbers or visual guides	Navigation is implicit (e.g. headings and blocks of text, imply organization)	Scarcely organized workflow with bare navigational elements	It is not at all clear how to move through information on the poster	
Visual Presentation	1) Prominently positions title/authors on poster 2) Overall visually appealing 3) Not cluttered 4) Colors and patterns enhance readability 5) Font sizes/variations facilitates the organization, presentation, and readability of the research	1) Contains title/authors of paper 2) Overall visually appealing 3) Not cluttered 4) Colors and patterns support readability 5) Font sizes/variations adequately facilitate the organization, presentation, and readability of the research 6) Graphics (e.g. tables, figures, etc.) are	1) Contains title/authors of paper 2) Visual appeal is adequate 3) Somewhat cluttered; colors and patterns detract from readability 3) Font sizes/variations is somewhat inconsistent/ distracting 4) Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) adequately enhance the text and labeled	1) Title/authors absent 2) Not very visually appealing/ cluttered 3) colors and patterns hinder readability 4) Font sizes/variations is inconsistent/ distracting 5) Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) do not enhance the text and are not labeled 6) Content arrangement is	

	6) Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) are relevant and labeled 7) Content is clearly arranged so that the viewer can understand order without narration 8) SEDS USA's heading is utilized	relevant to the text and labeled 7) Content is arranged so that the viewer can understand order without narration 8) SEDS USA's heading is utilized	5) Content arrangement is somewhat confusing and does not adequately assist the viewer in understanding order without narration 8) SEDS USA's logo is visible but a different heading template is used	somewhat confusing and does not adequately assist the viewer in understanding order without narration 8) SEDS USA's logo is not visible and heading is not used	
Oral Presentation of Research	1) Thoroughly but concisely presents main points of introduction, hypotheses/ propositions, research methods, results, and conclusions in a well-organized manner 2) All members' narration and/or answering of questions is engaging, thorough, and adds greatly to the presentation	1) Adequately presents main points of introduction, hypotheses/ proposition, research methods, results, and conclusions in a fairly well-organized manner 2) Most members' narration and/or answering of questions is thorough, most questions are answered sufficiently, may need some clarifications	1) Presents main points of introduction, hypotheses/ propositions, research methods, results, and conclusions but not as sufficiently and not as well-organized 2) Only one or few members' narration and/or answering of questions is engaging, or all around narration and answering questions is difficult to understand at times but concept is mostly understood	1) Does not sufficiently present main points of introduction, hypotheses/ propositions, research methods, results, and conclusions and is not well-organized 2) All around narration and/or answering of questions does not go into detail or simply reads directly off of the poster, speakers unable to give detail when asked	

Documentation of Sources, Quality of Sources	Cites all data obtained from other sources. APA citation style is accurate	Cites most data obtained from other sources. APA citation style is accurate	Cites some data obtained from other sources. Citation style is either inconsistent or incorrect.	Does not cite sources.	
Spelling & Grammar	No spelling & grammar mistakes	Minimal spelling & grammar mistakes	Noticeable spelling and grammar mistakes	Excessive spelling and/or grammar mistakes	
Conclusion / Preconclusion	1) Conclusion clearly summarizes the purpose of the experiment, explaining the significance of the experiment results. 2) Addresses any inconsistencies or errors in results and how to improve the experiment. Explains how results support or does not support the hypothesis. 3) For ongoing experiments, the pre-conclusion explains thoroughly what further experimentation is still to be done and what results to expect.	1) Conclusion/ pre-conclusion agrees mostly with the experimentation that has already been conducted, but makes minor blind-faith assumptions. 2) Conclusion explains why the results are important/relevant to a reasonable degree. 3) For ongoing experiments, the pre-conclusion explains what further experimentation is still to be done.	1) Conclusion/ pre-conclusion agrees somewhat with the experimentation that has been conducted but there are significant blind-faith assumptions. 2) Conclusion attempts to explain why the results are important/ relevant, but has issues doing so. 3) For ongoing experiments, the pre-conclusion lacks detailing about what further experimentation is still to be done.	1) Conclusion/ pre-conclusion is far-fetched and/or does not agree with the experimentation conducted. 2) No effort is made to explain why the results gathered are relevant. 3) For ongoing experiments, no effort is made to explain further steps.	

Registration Requirements

The Lightning Talk is open to *all SEDS members present at SpaceVision26* and a part

of an active SEDS Chapter.

- *Research Abstract*
- *SEDS-Affiliation Status*
- *Team or Individual Presentation Status*
- *Proof of SV ticket [required after registration]*

We encourage all interested SEDS students to attend and participate!

Registration Form

Refer to SV26 Website: spacevision.seds.org

Gala Ticket

REQUIRED

Awards

SpaceVision has a plethora of awards for both chapters and individuals that we highly encourage you to apply to.

Email members.at.large@seds.org for a copy of any rules or rubrics

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to
members.at.large@seds.org.

Ad Astra Per Aspera!



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