

2013 Technical Writing Contest

Hosted By:



Introduction

ASCE Golden Gate Branch YMF and Atlas Geotechnical are pleased to invite you to enter the 2013 Civil Engineering Technical Writing Contest. The contest is open to everyone in the Golden Gate Branch area who is eligible for YMF membership. This includes students and practitioners alike, of any civil engineering discipline. (Schools within the Golden Gate Branch area include SF State and Cal Berkeley)

Contest

The contest is intended to foster writing skills necessary for communicating technical information to a broad audience. Geotechnical engineering reports, civil engineering studies, and failure analysis reports are three example applications.

The contest is deliberately simple, informal, and hopefully fun. Write a clear, concise, and complete entry for the topic described below. We suggest a 500-word target for most entries; entries should be shorter or longer as you see fit to achieve the best balance of conciseness and completeness.

Topic

Describe a failure. Any type of infrastructure is acceptable. Well-documented historical failures are discouraged. Hypothetical failures of nonstandard structures like sand castles, card houses, and bar stools might showcase technical writing without the distraction of a factual narrative.

Judging

1. Entries are due Friday 18 October 2013. Submit via email to dschwarm@atlasgeotechnical.com in PDF or Word file format.
2. A 3-member panel will review, judge, and rank the entries.
3. Judging will focus entirely on the 3 C's of technical writing: Clarity, Conciseness, and Completeness. The specific failure that you describe is irrelevant. All judging will focus on technical writing quality.

4. You are limited to a two-sided 8.5x11 piece of paper. The use of a schematic to aid in your description is encouraged. The suggested 500-word length guideline is not intended to constrain entries. Keep in mind the goal of your entry is an optimal balance of conciseness and clarity.

Awards:

With contributions from both YMF and Atlas Geotechnical, the following cash prizes will be awarded:

1. \$1,000 cash for best overall entry.
2. Three awards of \$200 each for runners-up, one selected by each judge.
3. Trophies for the four winners and for other entries of particular merit.
4. All participants are invited to an awards banquet hosted by Atlas Geotechnical at a location and date to be determined. You will be notified of banquet details via email.
 - 4.1. The most likely date for the awards banquet is 7 November 2013.
 - 4.2. Think pizza and beer, maybe BBQ, not white tablecloths and chandeliers.
 - 4.3. Come prepared to have a good time.

More Information:

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