Eligibility and Conference Attendance

* The competition is open to all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate criminal justice students from a participating WV university or college. Students, who are from out of state, must have a faculty sponsor who is an official member of WVCJEA.
* Papers from an online course taught by a member of the WVCJEA are acceptable; however, the student must attend the conference (see below).

Conference Attendance

* Students must be in attendance at the conference, but are not required to present the paper.
* Students who do not attend the conference will be disqualified from the paper competition.

Paper Requirements

* Papers must be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font (size 12), and adhere to the APA publication manual (7th edition).
* Undergraduate papers should be approximately 10-15 pages in length. Graduate papers should be approximately 15-20 pages in length.
* There is no requirement on the number of references.
* All papers must include a(n):
	+ Title page (first and last name, title of the paper, school affiliation, date, class level- undergraduate or graduate)
	+ Introduction
	+ Body
	+ Conclusion
	+ Reference page
	+ Relevant appendices are acceptable if needed

Submissions

* Papers are to be submitted electronically in MS Word to the conference journal website (see WVCJEA-<http://mds.marshall.edu/msjcj/>).
* Only one paper per student may be submitted.
* Changes cannot be made once the paper has been submitted. That is, students cannot send an edited or newer version of the paper.
* Late submissions will not be accepted.

Scoring

* Papers will be read by a committee of WVCJEA faculty. A scoring rubric (see WVCJEA- [http://wvcjea.com/ will be](http://wvcjea.weebly.com/) used to ensure fairness. All names will be removed from the papers by the First Vice President, so that the competition involves a blind review.

Awards

* Cash prizes will be awarded the day of the conference at the closing ceremony. Undergraduate paper awards are: 1st place = $200; 2nd place = $150; and 3rd place = $100. Graduate paper awards include: 1st place = $200; 2nd place = $150; and 3rd place = $100 (2nd place awarded only when more than three graduate papers are submitted)
* All student papers submitted may be eligible for publication in the WVCJEA Conference Edition of the Mid-Southern Journal of Criminal Justice at the discretion of the competition judges and the journal editorial board.