

RESEARCH REPORT GUIDELINES

REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH 2026

All Regeneron STS entrants will submit a written Research Report detailing original, independent research. The Research Report is evidence of research ability, scientific originality and creative thinking. It is an opportunity to demonstrate competence in planning and completing a project in science, mathematics or engineering. Students must have completed an independent scientific investigation and have results to report. **Research proposals, investigations not yet completed, literature reviews, and essays are not eligible for this competition. Students may not submit additional research after the application deadline.**

1. The Student Researcher is required to write the paper without the use of AI (ChatGPT or other programs).
2. Every single image, graph, table, chart, etc. that appears in the Research Report must be cited per the Citation Guide in Appendix 3 on page 32. This includes images created by the Student Researcher. Failure to cite an image could result in disqualification.
3. Each entrant may submit only one entry and Research Report on one topic.
4. The Research Report must adhere to this structure:
 - a. The paper should be 20 pages or less. There is no page minimum. Pages of content beyond page 20 (excluding the pages mentioned below) will not be read or considered.
 - b. Include a title page as the first page, abstract as the second page and a bibliography at the end of the Research Report. The title page, abstract and bibliography do not count toward the 20-page limit.
 - c. Within the 20-page limit, we recommend including a short introduction describing the background and purpose of the work, an experimental design section including methods and results, and concluding discussion of results and implications. We do not require a specific format/order, and you may format in the standards of your scientific discipline.
 - d. List your name and project title (required) on the title page. It is also permitted to list your lab and mentor names. Do not put any e-mail addresses or phone numbers on your title page.
 - e. Appendices count toward the 20-page limit. Some students choose to include all images, charts, data, etc. within the paper, while others place them in appendices. Both options are acceptable.
 - f. Bibliographic references should be submitted for all sources consulted in the project with internal citations (a bibliography of sources does not count toward the 20-page limit).
5. The Research Report format should adhere to these basic requirements:
 - a. Choose a font that is legible and appropriate for a research paper. Research Reports found to use smaller than recommended font or margin size in order to increase word count may be disqualified. The font size should appear on the page at least as large as Times New Roman 11pt font. Captions may be smaller if legible.
 - b. Use 1.5 line spacing and 1" margins on all sides. Do not use multiple columns.
 - c. Number the pages of your research report in the bottom right corner, starting after the abstract.
 - d. Do not include any photographs of people, especially yourself, unless scientifically necessary and with proper consent.
 - e. Students may not provide links within the Research Report or application of any sort, except within bibliographic references or where specifically requested in the application.

- f. Students may not provide links within the Research Report or application of any sort, except within bibliographic references or where specifically requested in the application.
 - g. PDF files that are 4MB or smaller are the only format accepted in the online system.
 - h. Please name your file "LASTNAME.FIRSTNAME.ZIPCODE." Please use your home address zip code.
 - i. After uploading the report in the application system, download your application PDF to be certain all symbols are still present and correct.
- 6. Students may submit published work as long as all other formatting guidelines are similar (do not use very small font) and adhere to Regeneron STS rules. It is not recommended that students submit published research papers if they are not the sole or first author, or if the formatting is different from Regeneron STS requirements. Publishing research of the lab makes it difficult to assess student contribution to the work. In the case of published group research, acknowledge the published paper in your application, and submit your own version of the research to Regeneron STS that highlights your actual contributions to the larger research project.
- 7. If it is widely accepted to write scientific journal articles in your specific subject area using first person plural "we" then it is acceptable for a student to use the first person "I" in place of "we" in their Regeneron STS research report. This will help to clarify what was done independently vs. with support. If this is not widely accepted in your subject area, the passive voice should still be used.
- 8. Do not include library research or a history of literature beyond the short introduction, detailed explanations of experiments and procedures of other researchers that preceded the project, lengthy autobiographical information or personal history.
- 9. Do not upload statistics or a sample of your survey here for Behavioral or Social Sciences projects. A sample survey must be uploaded along with the IRB approval in the Rules Wizard task.

ENTRANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK EVERY POSSIBLE RESOURCE: Books, journals, experts in the field, adult advisors. Refer to research journals in your subject area for examples of report formats to guide your own format. Regeneron STS recognizes the independent research of student investigators. Work submitted by the student scientist should be of their own design and execution, and presented in their own words. Frequently Regeneron STS applicants do research within the context of the laboratory and/or in collaboration with others outside of a laboratory in which they work or that is related to that of those with whom they are working. This is expected, since science is a cumulative process, each finding built on previous ones. However, full disclosure of any research or person that has influenced the applicant's work is required.

Furthermore, the research report must accurately reflect the work of only the student researcher. While students may seek review of their content and presentation of the research report, both the content and writing should be the work of the applicant. Adults reviewing research reports should suggest areas for improvement, but not provide the student with replacement text or rewrite any portion of the entry.
