

Lena Söderström 2019-04-10

Researchers' Grand Prix

RULES

In the Researchers' Grand Prix, researchers compete to make the most understandable, captivating and inspiring presentation of their research in four minutes.

Local or regional competitions are arranged in conjunction with the science festival ForskarFredag where the winners will move on to the national finals in Stockholm in November. The competition is mainly held in Swedish, but competition entries in English are allowed.

The national finals are carried out by the foundation Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA and the research councils Formas, Forte, the Swedish Research Council, and Vinnova.

Purpose and target audience

- show how research can be conveyed in an understandable, captivating and inspiring way
- develop researchers' ability to evaluate and communicate about their subject
- give the audience an entertaining experience while getting to know more about research
- give research communication a higher status and more attention
- show the breadth of Swedish research

The target audience for the competition is the general public, primarily teenagers and young adults. Each organiser determines the audience for their own competition.

Competition Format

- 5-9 participants get an introductory round of **4 minutes** to present their research on stage in front of a jury and an audience.
- Then the three members of the jury, representing **academia, media, and the performing arts**, give their comments and constructive feedback about their respective areas and award points.
- The presentation is judged by the jury on the basis of **performance** (*stage presence, design*), **understanding** (*structure, narrative, ease of understanding*) and **research** (*science & description of the scientific method*).
- After all contestants have presented, a "quick prize" is made where each participant makes a **30-second** long presentation, after which the audience gives a rating to each contestant or votes for their overall favourite.
- Some form of interval then follows while the jury's and the audience's votes are counted together.
- A winner is selected and awarded!

N.Ö.R.D (National Open Nationwide Contest)

Vetenskap & Allmänhet arranges a "digital contest" where researchers throughout Sweden can compete for a place in the final by submitting a video presentation of themselves. The person who wins this competition receives the same coaching for the final as the other finalists.

Competitors

The competitors must work with research in the private or public sector in Sweden, for example:

- College teachers, researchers or people working on applying science or technology
- Doctoral Students

However, the competition is *not* open to anyone who works professionally in communicating science, eg communication officers, artists working with scientific themes, science center staff, journalists, etc.

Presentation

- The contestants must produce a presentation of their research with a maximum time limit of four minutes.
- No contestant may continue their presentation longer than the maximum allotted time.
- The presentation is done in Swedish or English.
- The presentation must not be designed by anyone else; a communicator, colleague or similar. The competitors must own the material themselves but may take the support and assistance of experts in different areas.
- It is permitted and even encouraged to use props.
- Using presentation tools such as Powerpoint is allowed. Any images and sound clips used must be copyright-free.
- Participants will be offered supervision/coaching in presentation techniques by the local organisers prior to the competitions. Note that this step is *mandatory* for organisers and participants!

Assessment and Scoring

- The jury and the audience rate each contestant according to a scale where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest score.
- The voting can be done by means of Mentimeter buttons, SMS voting, scorecards, etc. The result is not shown to the audience.
- The jury members show signs with their individual points after the feedback session following each presentation.
- The individual votes of the public and the jury are separately converted into an average score. The two averages are then merged for each competitor. *The audience's votes should be counted as 2/3 of the total points and the jury's 1/3.* The final points are hidden from the audience.

Final

- In November, a national final will be arranged in Stockholm with the same competition format.
- Participants in the final are those with the highest score from each competition around the country.
- All finalists are offered personal coaching in presentation techniques approximately one month before the final and the coach meets all the finalists in person. The same coach helps the finalists to refine their presentation at the rehearsals in Stockholm just prior to the final.
- The finalists gather in Stockholm the day before the final for a review, dinner, individual rehearsals on the final stage and dress rehearsal.

