GENERAL APPLICATIONS

Entries shall be developed from various non-multimedia application programs. Projects using general presentation software that does not include sound or video capabilities should be entered here. Many general applications projects, although presented on-screen and may allow for an attached "sound", may be printed so that the final printed product does not lose any of the intrinsic integrity of the on-screen project. One example of this is StoryBook Weaver. However, products such as PowerPoint which now permit multimedia must be entered under multimedia category unless those features are not used by the student. A complete print-out of each "slide" must be included in the student's notebook if this option is chosen and the final product must be completely linear or book-like in its presentation.

Research projects that use applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, desktop publishing, and/or databases can be entered in General Applications. Projects using information obtained from e-mail, Internet searches, and other electronic media (on-line, laser disc, or CD resources) can be entered in General Applications, also, providing that the end product is for print or on-screen presentation not using other multimedia effects.

Students must demonstrate knowledge and use of the applications software that they have used. They must have the software loaded that was used to create their project and a computer on which to run it the day of the fair. Students will present their notebooks of summary information to the judges. If a program runs from a CD-ROM, it must be available at the fair. For security purposes, however, a student may elect to bring a copy of such software rather than the original.

Projects in this category may use applications software such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases, desktop publishing or presentation/story creators. Graphics design and photography oriented software, which, after digital manipulation, may produce a final printed product, whether two or three dimensional in appearance, should also be submitted in this category. Any of these applications may be combined and may also use information and images from other input devices such as digital cameras and scanners. Examples of this software may include: paint, illustration and photo scanning/manipulating, sketching and computer-aided design products so long as a final printed product is possible to be produced. ACTE understands the quality of the final product often depends upon the quality of the printer. Students may not have access to print devices that will give the same performance as the on-screen project. The defining principle here is that a printed product is possible or desired.

Art work or graphic designs may be included from within the software itself or obtained from external sources including the Internet or clip-art software. Art that has been created digitally should be entered in General Applications.

Photographs may be entered in General Applications provided that they have been

digitally altered by computer-based software. The alteration process must be a necessary part of the project, and the output must be intended for print or visual (nonmotion) effects on-screen. Students should be prepared to describe and demonstrate this process to the judges. The process and end results should be documented in the project notebook.

The final output from this category may be on-screen or on paper, even if more than one applications software package or element was used in creating the project. However, if sound (such as speech or music or long-playing sound) or motion (animation/video) is incorporated, the final project should be entered under the Multimedia or Web Page Creation categories, as appropriate. When several still pictures are brought together to create a video, such as a "quick-time" movie, the result belongs in multimedia, unless it is used in a final video or web page category project.

Newsletters, newspapers, and yearbooks are eligible projects; however, they must fit the appropriate entry category and cannot have more than four people who worked on the entry. For example, an electronic yearbook may need to be entered under the Multimedia category if it imbeds voice, or music, or video. However, if it is distributed by VHS tape for viewing as a true film or video on television then it should be entered under Video Production. A yearbook that is distributed on disc or CD-ROM, but which does not meet the multimedia criterion of additional sound or motion, may be entered in the General Applications category.