**The Cornell Cup Application Questions**

More than providing a means for selecting the Cornell Cup final competing teams, this application is designed to help teams formally think about their projects and develop plans in the critical first steps of the design process. Ultimately, this will serve as both an excellent educational exercise for you to gain experience in initializing a new project and to help increase your chance of success in the projects you are creating for the competition.

We greatly hope that even those teams that do not get selected for the finals, that they will continue to follow the competition’s entry development process for its educational value and to help them gain experience to create even better entries for next year’s event. Additionally, even if you are not selected but you continue the competition process, the Cornell Cup Competition Committee would love to hear about any great achievements you have made and may even be interested in featuring them on our website.

**Application Rules Overview:**

The application should:

* Answer all of the following questions below
* Be submitted in Word with 1” margins and written in a standard & professional 12 pt font.
* Be no more than 12 pages total (not counting references)
* Include your registered team name, but do not include other identifying information to help ensure that your application will be blind reviewed fairly.
* Submitted to cornellcupusa@cornell.edu by the deadlines on the competition website once the application is completed

*Applications submitted in an early application round, but weren’t accepted, may be reworked and resubmitted in a later round*

*Please see the complete competition rules for more details*

**Project Abstract (200 words):**

Describe your project, the challenge it is trying to be a solution to, and why your solution is unique and exciting in 200 words or less. This abstract will be displayed publically on the competition website.

**Challenge Definition:**

What is the challenge you are trying to accomplish? Why is this a worthwhile challenge to undertake? What will a good solution to this challenge be able to do?

**Proposed Solution:**

What is your proposed solution approach to this challenge? Why will this be a good solution? What is the scope of the solution? (What will it be able to do when you’re done?, What won’t it be able to do? and/or, What new knowledge will you have?) What do you plan to be able to demonstrate at the Cornell Cup Expo?

**Performance Measures:**

How will you know you have achieved your goals / met the challenge’s need? How will you measure your entry’s performance? What are some of the specific metrics that will be used? What are some existing (even partial) solutions that you could measure your solution against?

**Timeline & Milestones:**

Provide a timeline for the creation of your competition entry. This timeline should include major milestones, and the deliverables that must be achieved in order to declare the milestone has been reached. It is imperative that time for testing, documentation, and review sessions be included within your timeline.

**Feasibility & Resources Available:**

Please comment on the feasibility of the proposed solution, and the timeline you have developed to create that solution. What evidence can you give that your proposed solution to the challenge will work? (References to journal papers, past projects, or similar sources are recommended when possible but are not required) Please also explain any special resources required and their availability to your team for this project.

**Potential Concerns & Alternative Plans:**

What are some of the potentially most impactful concerns and how likely are they to occur? What are steps you plan to take to mitigate these concerns? What are some of the ways you will handle these concerns should they arise? What are some of the alternatives you are considering should these concerns prevent the solution you proposed in the “Proposed Solution” section earlier. How will this affect your timeline and at what point in your timeline will you have to decide whether or not to proceed with an alternative plan?

**REFERENCES**

Please include a reference section if needed.