



Food Packaging Division

IFT STUDENT FOOD PACKAGING DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION ENTRY KIT

This is an annual international competition that honors advancements in student food packaging development. Impacts of participating in and/or winning this competition include:

- Participants will solve real-life food problems or needs (e.g., food waste reduction).
- Participants will enhance their knowledge about specific problems that relate to both food and packaging (e.g., development of packaging for a new food product).
- Students will apply the knowledge they have gained within the classroom.
- Participants will improve their teamwork skills.
- Participants will improve presentation skills.
- Participants will gain exposure and prestige.

PARTICIPANTS

Eligibility

- Undergraduate students or graduate students enrolled in food or packaging-related programs.
- Must be an IFT member.

Type

- Individual.
- Team made up of undergraduate students, graduate students, or both together.
- Team is encouraged.
- Mentor is not required (e.g., professor, industry expert, etc.).

THE CHALLENGE

Develop a packaging solution to address a problem or need related to food packaging from any of the following points of view (not limited to): food science, engineering, chemistry, marketing, design, legal, and education. Examples of possible topics are listed below:

- Packaging design of a new or an existing food product
- Food packaging materials
- Food packaging testing
- Food packaging technologies
- Packaging machinery
- Packaging and food safety
- Packaging and the environment
- Development of a new food product
- Packaging material or format processing
- Food development
- Packaging material or format properties



Food Packaging Division

- Testing procedures
- Methodology
- Package design
- Machinery
- Food economics
- Packaging economics
- Food safety
- Package safety
- Food packaging and the environment
- Food supply chain
- Food regulations
- Consumers
- Food storage

Alternatively, you could write a short literature review instead of proposing a problem or need and its solution. If that is your choice, split the literature review into two parts: (1) problem or need and (2) proposed solutions by academia and/or industry.

Although it is not required, you or your team are encouraged to ask your professors or industrial professionals for advice on appropriate sources of information (industry practices, publications, and/or videos).

Show us innovation and creativity based on current or future packaging needs!

ENTRY FORM

All the required information is listed below:

- a. Participant information: names, e-mails, IFT member numbers
- b. Contact participant information
- c. Concept. Participants should write a conceptual, theoretical, or practical concept that addresses a selected food packaging problem or need and its solution. The concept should include:
 - a. Title
 - b. Problem or need (define the problem that you are trying to solve or the need that you are trying to address and explain why this relates to food packaging). Please provide supporting documents, which could be in-text literature references, communication with industrial experts, and/or summary notes as presented as figures or comparison tables.
 - c. Solution(s) to the proposed problem or need (think outside the box!) Please provide supporting documents, similar to the examples provided above.
 - d. Full references
 - e. Illustration, image, or video of a packaging prototype, if applicable (optional)

Guidelines

- a. Enter names and other personal information on the designated fields in the Entry Form.



Food Packaging Division

- b. Enter your essay title in the Entry Form box called “Title of Essay.”
- c. Write a concept that is created exclusively for the IFT food packaging development competition. See **ENTRY FORM** for specific concept content. Only clear and well-organized concepts that cover all the requested fields will be judged.
- d. 1,000 to 1,500 word-essay written in English. Citations are excluded from word account.
- e. Write your essay using a word processor and utilize entry form details for e-mail submission.
- f. Place quotes (e.g., any ideas that are not your own) within the body of the essay. Do not use footnotes or endnotes.
- g. Full references must also be submitted via e-mail information in entry form. Reference style: MLA.
- h. Your essay will be judged not only on the science, but also on creativity, innovation (avoid plagiarism and think outside the box!) including proposed problem or need and solution, feasibility, implementation, and how well you express yourself (spelling, punctuation, and grammar). Specifically, the following points should be clearly addressed in your essay:
 - (a) Under “The problem or need”:
 - a. Background of the problem or need
 - b. Justify why this problem needs to be solved or this need should be addressed
 - (b) Under “Solution to the proposed problem or need”:
 - a. Propose a solution with evidence (e.g., market data, scientific information) that supports it and its importance to the actual food packaging sector
 - b. Is this solution an original food packaging idea, or is the idea a refinement of an existing one
 - c. Background of the solution
 - d. Feasibility of the solution in context of the current food supply chain
 - e. Thinking outside of the box – tell us why your solution is different
 - f. Possible implementation of the solution
 - g. Possible value created by the solution
 - h. Targeted users of your solution

ENTRY PROCESS

Entry forms will be accepted until May 1, 2023. Winners will be notified via email prior to [IFT FIRST: Annual Event and Expo](#).

AWARDS

A general certificate along with monetary prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500 will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, respectively. All winners will be invited to pick up their awards at IFT FIRST. Winners will be recognized at the IFT FIRST Food Packaging, Food Engineering, and Nonthermal Processing Divisions joint social activity. The winners will be invited to give a very brief overview (3 minutes) of their concepts (proposed problems or needs and solutions to these).



Food Packaging Division

Students who are not able to join the social activity will be contacted via email to be informed about the alternative way to receive the award.

JUDGES

A panel of experts in food packaging including academic and industry experts will judge the entries. Judges should be IFT Food Packaging Division members.