
THE POSTER PRESENTATION

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the poster presentation is to provide an opportunity for communicating the results of research and to promote discussion among science colleagues. Because poster presentations are usually done in groups, with observers milling around a large room of posters, the presentations are relaxed and more conducive to the exchange of ideas and techniques between presenters and observers.

The poster presentation's main body (Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results and Discussion) should be no longer than 15 slides. The Title Page, Table of Contents, Abstract, Literature Cited, Acknowledgements and any tables and figures are part of the fifteen-slide limit. An electronic copy in MS PowerPoint must be uploaded via your eduLink account. You should also submit a hard copy to your mentor and your laboratory education program manager before the end of your internship.

THE POSTER

A good poster is uncluttered and clear in design. It has legible text and logical organization. The main tenet of a good poster design is simplification. Use a crisp, clean design and a strong title. Do not tell the entire research history; present only enough data to support your conclusions and show the originality of the work. The text material should be reduced to convey your points quickly and clearly. Many successful posters display a succinct statement of major conclusions at the beginning, followed by supporting text in later segments, and a brief summary at the end.

- Allow ample time, at least two weeks, to prepare your poster.
- All lettering should be legible from about 5 feet (1.5m) away.
- Text material is ideally

24 point (1/4", .625cm)

Poster elements should be mounted with an adhesive on white or colored poster board. A professional appearance is achieved by mounting illustrations and captions on colored poster-board with a 1/4" to a 1/2" border as a frame. Double mounting with different colored poster board is a clever way to color coordinate different sections of the poster.

For ease of transport, make the poster elements small enough to package and carry (approximately 17" x 22", 42.5cm x 55cm). Be sure to pack a measuring tape, push pins or Velcro, and a sketch of the poster layout so you will be prepared to set up the poster quickly.

Posters should feature a title, your name, the name of the institution where the research was performed, the sponsor (Department of Energy), and should credit persons who have helped you with your research.

Preparation

- The top of the poster should consist of an easy-to-read and easy to understand Title that includes author(s) name(s). The title lettering should be about 2" to 3" (5cm to 7.5cm) with subheadings ½" to 1" high (1.25cm to 2.5cm).
- All lettering should be legible from about 5 feet (1.5 m) away. The appropriate type size for text should be 24 points (¾", .625cm).
- The component parts should be organized in a way that leads the viewer through the display. Colored matting can be very effective here.
- Leave some open space in the design.
- Use elements of different size and proportions. Convert tabular material to graphic display, if possible.
- A large and/or bright center of interest can draw the eye to the most important aspect of the poster. Use color to add emphasis and clarity.
- Make illustrations simple and bold. Enlarge photos to show pertinent details clearly.
- All illustrations, graphs and pictures should have their own attached explanations.
- Displayed materials should be self-explanatory, freeing you for discussion.
- Handouts of your abstract should be available for interested viewers.
- Demonstrations of experiments or three-dimensional displays are not typical of a poster session.

*These guidelines were taken, in part, from the AAAS-American Junior Academy of Science Poster Session guidelines for the year 2007.
