

Building A Great Poster

Posters are research projects in pictures, words and design. Many academics and scientists present and “publish” posters of their current research.

Scientists build and share their posters at conferences around the world. The poster you build for the Forest Watch Student Convention may take you to a conference of scientists, teachers or student scientists. Last summer, posters took Dr. Rock’s students to Washington DC, San Francisco, CA, and Puget Sound, WA.

Posters are carefully designed and printed on glossy paper. They usually read from left to right in a clearly organized logic. Graphics are usually small but interesting, illustrating the words. Graphics might be photographs, graphs, or reproductions of artwork. Tools and methods are often photographed.

Designs for posters are on-line. We found an excellent site at Swarthmore College Biology Dept. We include a number of recent UNH posters as examples.

Posters contain the same information which your report contains. This includes:

Title: What is this research about?

Author: Your names

Introduction: A summary of your findings—the conclusion comes first!

Hypothesis: If you has one

Background: Why is this important?

Method: What tools and protocols were used?

Results: The numbers, the observations

Discussion: An explanation; what does it mean?

References: If you mentioned anyone else’s work

Acknowledgements: The names of teachers and others who helped.

Poster DUE DATE: May 18. Email posters to Martha Carlson. She will help you edit a final draft. Our experts in Morse Hall will print your poster. It will be waiting for you, on a display easel, when you arrive on May 27. You may take your poster home with you.

Websites with Great Design Ideas:

Purrington, C.B. 2009. Advice on designing scientific posters.

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm>. Accessed May 26, 2010.

Poster and Presentation Resources. UNC The Graduate School.

gradschool.unc.edu/student/postertips.html, Accessed May 26, 2010.

Space Grant's Student Poster Gallery. waspacegrant.org/pstrXmpls.html. Accessed May 26, 2010.

Southwest Regional Conference: Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
ciser.ttu.edu/sacnas/Documents/Southwest%20Regional%20SCANAS%Abstract%Book.pdf

Poster Presentation Tips

Arrive promptly. Check in and find out where your poster is located. Be ready to stand beside your poster from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Dress appropriately. Wear comfortable shoes as you may not be able to sit down for several hours.

Conference attendees and poster judges will visit you and your poster. Introduce yourself. Shake hands. Give them time to read and look. Then ask if they have questions. Some visitors will prefer that you "walk" them through the poster, talking about each section, summarizing the words, explaining the pictures and graphics.

Bring business cards to give to people you hope will remember you. Have a notebook with you and write down the names of interesting visitors or ask them for a business card.

When it seems appropriate, take a break and visit other posters.