

Blind Brook-Rye UFSD
Science Research Program
THE STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER: OVERVIEW

The research poster is the students' best way to get the message across to a transient and short duration audience as efficiently and accurately as possible. At poster sessions, onlookers will want to move around and see as much as possible. Their attention span is necessarily short so the poster presenter has to work fast.

First, the poster itself. One can spend from a couple of dollars on a presentation board to over a hundred. We recommend the cardboard types that are three feet high by four feet across for our high school symposium (4' x 4' for competitions). Two of the four feet across are panels that fold out from the center three x two panels, thus making it easy to protect and transport. Due to space constraints, many competitions and science fairs are limiting poster space to this size. Smaller posters are not recommended as they may be hard to read. It is heartbreaking to watch a student stand by a poster that is hard to read because of small size and see how many people simply pass it by.

Students will present posters in every year of their research experience. In their first year they will present a poster of a favorite article they have read and add their own plans to it. In subsequent years they will present their own work.

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THE PRESENTATION OF A POSTER

The poster presentation is your chance to demonstrate what you have done so far and what it means. TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!

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The poster presentation should be prepared in the following sequence:

- First, write out what is to be said. This must be very carefully written so that it shows your level of mastery. Describe the central theme of the research, and then the data presented on the poster. The total time for this presentation should be about two minutes and not more than three minutes. This means that the total written presentation should be about 150 words in length.
- Once the presentation is written out and the poster created, you will present it to the class for critique.
- You should keep rehearsing the finished presentation until such time as there is no more need to resort to notes.
- When presenting at a symposium, you should stand to one side of the poster facing the audience. Give the talk at a normal pace and then ask if there are questions.
- As new audience arrives, you should simply launch into a repeat of what you just did.

Poster Text Format

Posters need to be attractive and unobtrusive. Above all, they must be readable from four to seven feet away. Selecting the right font is a matter of taste. If you are unsure what font to use, try Arial. The following is a list of font sizes that work well proportionally and are easily readable at the distance most people stand at. It is also advisable to stick to one font for a poster.

- Title – 48 point type bold – size depending on space available
- Authors – 32 point bold
- Text headings 36 point bold
- Text 28 point
- Caption under images, charts, tables, graphs, etc. 26 point bold
- References (title) – 36 point bold
- References 28 point bold

. A recommended layout is:

- The center panel should have the title at the top. This should never run off onto the side panels. The rest of the center panel should contain results - graphs, tables, diagrams, etc.
- The left panel should contain a literature review. If this is your first year the review may be just the review taken from the article being presented. In subsequent years, it will be the student's review of literature leading to your current research.
- The right panel should contain discussion, conclusion, and suggestions for further research. Again, if it's your first year this panel may concentrate on further research instead of discussion.