

BIO 41E Project III:

Presenting Results in a Scientific Poster Format.

SPRING 2013

For this lab, you will present your results as a **poster instead of as a paper!** Each lab group will work together to make one poster. You will present your posters on **April 2, or 3.** You will also evaluate and give feedback to other groups on their posters.

One of the primary ways that scientists communicate their results is through the presentation of posters at scientific meetings. Presenters stand by their posters at assigned times while people walk around and read them. Presenting a poster allows you to interact on a more personal level with people interested in your poster. It's a great way to get feedback on your study and to meet others with similar interests. There are often hundreds of posters being presented at once. Therefore, an effective poster is one which clearly and quickly conveys its content. The structure of a poster is the same as a scientific paper (title, authors, introduction, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgements, literature cited) except that some people leave out the abstract (the poster is, in effect, an abstract). You will need to cite more literature than the lab manual.

A poster should never have a full length paper printed on it. An effective way to make your points briefly is to use bullets instead of full sentences. One has to be sensitive to the fact that people will not have the time nor the energy to read a lot of text on your poster. The figures are the most critical part of a poster. It is more effective to present your data in graphs instead of complicated tables or lengthy descriptions. The font on your poster should be large (never less than size 18). The challenge of making a good poster is in distilling your text so that your message can be made clear in very few words.

All tables and figures should be referred to in the text. Your hypotheses should be obvious.

Preparing a Poster:

Prepare your poster using the program POWERPOINT. The first thing you need to do after opening the program is to select 'FILE' and 'PAGE SET-UP' and adjust the size of the slide to be 42 inches x 42 inches. If you make things small and then stretch them big, the images and text will not look OK, so start with the right size. Then you can insert pictures, text boxes, graphs, and tables with ease and you can format the background. Put your title at the top and the authors underneath. Be sure to put your affiliation as well (Pomona College, Dept. of Biology). Once you have everything in the place that you want, hit 'Select All' and then 'Group' under the drawing toolbar menu. This way, things won't mysteriously move around on you. Save your poster on a CD disk or jump drive. To print the poster, you can print the poster for free on the bio dept. poster printer. It can take several hours to print a poster so do not try this at the last minute!!!! On Monday, April 1, I will have extra office hours in the poster printing room to get your posters printed. If there is a backlog or technical difficulties there, you can print your poster in the ITS building. You need to have someone at ITS send your poster to the print queue. This will come out of your print quota temporarily. Luckily the TAs in this class have produced beautiful posters so they can be very helpful to you in this process. Poster printing help will be available in the computer room in Seaver South on Monday, April 1 from: 9 -10:30, 2 - 5 and Tuesday the 2nd from 10 – 12 and 3 – 5.

Name _____ LAB DAY _____

Title of poster you are reviewing:

1 Was the purpose of the study clearly presented?

2. Was enough background information given for you to understand the context of the study?

3. Were the methods understandable?

4. Were the results presented in an effective manner? Comment on their use of tables and figures. Be as specific as possible.

5. Were conclusions clear? Was the significance evident? If not, give suggestions for the authors:

6. Did the poster have all of the elements needed? (Title, authors, intro, methods, results, discussion and acknowledgements and literature cited)

7. Was the poster organized effectively? Give suggestions for changes:

8. Were graphics easy to understand? (Were figures cited in text, figure captions easy to understand, photos used effectively, font size large enough to read at a distance?)
Be specific about particular graphics.

9. What did you particularly like about this poster?

11. What suggestions do you have for the authors about the poster or their presentation of the poster?