

Poster: General Information

Feet and Inches	
High	~4 feet
Wide	5 to 8 feet

Please prepare a title for the top of your poster indicating title of presentation, author(s) and their affiliation(s). See lettering section for the appropriate size of the title. A copy of your abstract, in large type, should be posted near the title.

To maximize the effectiveness of the poster, keep the presentation simple and clear, even if the topic is complex. Your poster should be self explanatory so that you are free to supplement and discuss particular points raised in inquiry. There should be an overall balance between text and graphics and clearly labeled sequence in the order of the layout. Arrange materials in vertical columns rather than a horizontal row format.

It is easier for viewers to scan a poster by moving systematically along it rather than zig zagging back and forth in front of it. Simple but prominent sub-headings like “Introduction”, “Methods”, “Results”, “Discussion”, and “Conclusions” are very helpful.

Lettering

Lettering of the titles and text in the poster should be large enough so it can be read from a distance of 3 to 8 feet. Title and subtitles should be in capital letters, although the author(s) and affiliation(s) in the main title can be lower case to accentuate the title. General text should be in lower case and double-spaced, as this is much easier to read. General text is most easily produced by photographic enlargement of typewritten text or by personal computers with word processing programs equipped with large font sizes.

Minimum Letter Height	Inches	cm	point size
Title	1-1/2"	3.8	96
Subtitle	3/4	2.0	48
Text	1/4	0.7	24

Graphics

Simplify! Complex graphs are too difficult to read and comprehend. Lettering on the graph should be at least 1/4" (7 mm) high and lines on the graph no thinner than 2 mm. Simple use of color can add emphasis effectively. Each graph should have a heading of 1 or 2 lines stating the "take-home" message. Detailed information should be provided in a legend accompanying each graph. Overall graph size should not be smaller than 5" x 7", with 8" x 10" size preferred.

Photographs

Photographs and micrographs should have good contrast, sharp focus, and should not contain unnecessary or distracting detail. Remember that they will be viewed from a distance from 3 to 8 feet and should be large enough to be understood from that distance. Important objects should be labeled, and there should be clear indication of scale. Each photograph should have a heading of 1 or 2 lines stating the take-home message. Detailed information should be provided in a legend accompanying each photograph. The same size scale as stated for graphs applies: 5" x 7", with the larger 8" x 10" size preferred.

Final Comments:

-Use text sparingly- you should have more figures/tables/pictures than text on the poster

-Where appropriate, give references to the literature in the text, and provide a bibliography

-Finally- have your advisor go over the poster before it is printed up, and go over your presentation with you before Research Day. Your presentation should be on the order of 10 minutes.

Adapted from the American Auditory Society web site

(<http://www.amauditorysoc.org/about/guidlines.html>)

Other web sites about scientific poster sessions:

University of Minnesota, College of Civil Engineering:

<http://www.ce.umn.edu/~smith/supplements/poster/guide.htm>

Swarthmore College, Dept. of Biology:

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm>

University Hospital in Uppsala, Sweden, Dept of Occupational and Environmental
Medicine:

<http://edu.medsci.uu.se/occmed/poster/>