

The poster project

A technical poster is a visually-oriented stand-alone presentation of a scientific topic, typically of your lab research. In this project, you will choose a biochemical topic found in the material we will cover this quarter and develop a poster around that topic.

Some possible poster topics:

- Your own clinical or lab research
- The boxes within the chapters we are covering that have references at the end of the box.
- A paper mentioned as a source in the chapter bibliography.

Requirements for sources: Your poster must cite at least *two* papers published in peer-reviewed journals (note that these journals may be electronic). Please use a standard scientific citation format for the citation within the text of your poster and in the bibliography. Do **not** cite the textbook. **Avoid** using encyclopedias (including Wikipedia). The second paper might be found in the sources of the first paper. Of course, you may cite your own published work.

As a visual presentation, posters follow the same rules as advertisements:

- The **title** (and the **name(s)** of the author(s)) are prominently displayed. The title is usually less than fifteen words long. Make the letters in your title at least two-thirds of an inch tall, or better yet, typeset them at 48-point or greater type. The author's name should be followed by an institutional affiliation (e.g., North Seattle Community College).
- The **graphical elements** (e.g., photographs, drawings, graphs) do not overwhelm the reader. Avoid having too many (more than ten) or too few (less than three) graphical elements. Arrange them so that there is graphic around which the other graphics are placed (if one is much bigger). All **graphs** must have the axes clearly labelled (with units!) and have visible data points.
- The **text** of the poster should contain at least 500 words. Don't do a word count, but be sure that you have both **captions** for the graphical elements and **body text** to tie what the graphics show into the larger idea. Typeset this; don't handwrite it. Use at least 12 point type (this size) for the captions and at least 16 point type for the body text. Hints: Do not paste 8.5 by 11 inch sheets of paper covered in text on the posterboard. If you use the exact wording of a source, place that wording in quotes; **don't plagiarize!**
- The **bibliography** of your sources must be shown in one of the bottom corners of your poster. The format the textbook uses for bibliographic entries is fine.

The poster session itself will be on **Monday, December 8**, promptly at **6 p.m.**. As you enter the room, there will be a sign directing you to set up at a particular booth (they will be numbered). You will also get three "**poster evaluation**" forms. You will peer review the three posters to the right (clockwise around the room), according to the directions on the form; you will turn in these forms. In order to avoid chaos, there will be a schedule of when you will be reviewing and when you will be standing by your poster being reviewed.

- The **abstract** of your poster, which is a one or two paragraph summary submitted a week beforehand *as an e-mail attachment*. This will be "published" in an abstract handout so that everyone will know what your poster is about. More details will be given in a handout later. The abstract will be due by midnight, **Monday, December 1**.

Your grade will be a combination of the abstract, the poster and the poster evaluation forms you turn in.