



Harlem Children Society

"The Purpose of Souls is to Assist Each Other"

Seventh International Harlem Science Street Fairs & Festivals Poster & Research Conference 2010

Guidelines and Tips for Poster Presentations

Guidelines and Space Restrictions

You must bring your own 4ft x 4ft poster board of your poster presentation. Presentations may not exceed this space, as other posters will be in the space beside yours. Your poster does not have to fill the entire area.

Please bring your own pushpins or thumb tacks to the Conference.

You must display and remove your poster according to times indicated in the conference schedule.

Internet connections may be available. If presenting with a computer, we will provide an electrical outlet, but not the computer or power strip. The poster room will not be secure so you will be responsible for keeping your computer with you at all times. Sorry, no projected presentations.

The conference schedule will indicate presentation sessions. You should be available and at your poster to respond to questions during these times. Please note that conference attendees may view your poster at times other than the designated presentation sessions so you should keep your poster on display as indicated on the conference program.

Tips for Student Poster Presentations

While the following tips are offered to student presenters, professional scientists and engineers may find them helpful as well. [Look at the example of a poster presentation \(PDF\)](#).

Title

Your title should capture the major aim/conclusion of your research. The title may span the entire top of the 4ft X 4ft board, or may be positioned in the top-center.

Lettering for the title should be large enough to be read from several feet away. We recommend using a minimum of 70 pt. font.

Abstract

In general, your abstract will contain one sentence from each section of your presentation. For example:

Introduction: Why is this research important and what question are you trying to answer?

Methods: How did you go about solving or making progress on this problem/topic?

Results: What are your findings?

Conclusions: What are the implications of your findings?





The abstract should NOT contain any references to published works or literature.

Avoid using abbreviations in the abstract.

Abstracts may be printed in the conference directory booklet that will be handed out to the meeting attendees.

Introduction

Clearly state the problem or project and the reasons why you are studying it. This information should be contained in the first few sentences.

Provide concise and appropriate background discussion of the problem including the significance, scope and limits of your work. Outline what has been established by citing truly pertinent literature. Do not include an overview of marginally relevant literature.

State how your work differs from, or is related to previously published work.

How did other scientists' work lead to yours?

Make the introduction one or two paragraphs in length.

Materials and Methods

Give enough detail so that others will know how you gathered the data. A list presentation of this information is appropriate for posters.

Results

Summarize the data collected and the statistical analysis you used, as appropriate. Include only relevant data, but give enough detail to adequately justify your conclusions. Use equations, figures, and tables only where necessary. Aim for clarity and brevity.

Tables and Figures

Use graphs rather than tables to present numerical data. Graphs allow the reader to see trends more easily. If data must be presented in table form, KEEP IT SIMPLE.

Leave out any unnecessary details. Studies show that you have only 11 seconds to grab and retain your audience's attention. Display your important points and make them brief.

Number tables and figures according to the order in which they appear in the text. Give each table a title. (For example: Figure 1. Species composition).

Discussion/Conclusions

The purpose of this section is to relate your results back to the original problem you have tested.

You should also explain the significance of your research findings in relation to the other research in this area. Base your conclusions on evidence presented in the results section.

Literature Cited

You may choose to provide a listed of references cited in the text of the poster. An example is provided below. For more complicated citation formats, use the reference section of any of your primary journal sources. Notice the format that the journal employs and use that method.

Journal article: Author(s). Publication year. Article title. Journal title volume: pages.

Example Smith, D.C. and J. Van Buskirk. 1995. Phenotypic design, plasticity and ecological performance in two tadpole species. American Naturalist 145:211-233.

Acknowledgements

In this section, you acknowledge and thank the individuals, departments, programs, and funding resources, which contributed to the research.

General Advice

KEEP THE TEXT BRIEF. Blocks of text should not exceed 3 paragraphs.(Most viewers will not





read more than that). Present only enough data to support your conclusions, but make sure that there is sufficient information to explain the process.

Use a word-processor for all text, including captions. Print on plain white paper.

We suggest that all presentation text be 18 pt. font OR larger. The title should be at least 70 pt. font.

The poster generally should read from left to right, and top to bottom. Numbering the individual panels, or connecting them with arrows is a standard guidance system.

Leave some open space in the design. Your audience will appreciate this as it will make your presentation easier to read and understand.

Before the poster session, rehearse a brief summary of your project. Conference attendees and judges will want to hear you describe your research and poster. Don't be afraid to point out uncertainties in your work, you may be able to receive valuable feedback and helpful insight from others.

It takes time to make a great poster. Allow 2 to 3 days to assemble the pieces, such as photos, graphs and figures, and then allow 2 days to cut all of the boards and physically assemble the poster. TALK WITH YOUR ADVISOR as you go through this process. Make sure he/she approves of your layout and agrees that you have presented all of the important information in the best possible way.

You may choose to display your poster on several different sections of colored poster board. To do this, cut the poster board into pieces that fit the size of your text sections. You may choose to use adhesive spray glue or double-sided tape to attach your paper to the backing. Some students prefer one of these methods to using standard white glue, as it reduces wrinkling and bubbling of the paper.

Please choose appropriate attire for your attendance and presentation at the conference. The attire expected should be similar to that of an interview.

Abstract Tips

A good abstract contains the following elements:

- Clear research statement/hypothesis

- Brief statement of research methodologies

- Brief statement of research conclusions

- Clear sense of how the research fits into the bigger picture

Sample Abstracts: These sample abstracts from award winning presentations may provide useful examples. Download a [PDF](#). Please note that the Title and Authors Sections are entered as separate fields during registration.

Scientific Poster Abstracts - Non-student opportunity: This meeting offers a unique opportunity for scientific exchange. **International Harlem Science Street Fairs & Festivals Poster & Research Conference** participants are invited to show their recent research in this ongoing poster session. Posters are located adjacent to student presentations to facilitate ample discussion and interaction. The option to bring a scientific poster is available during registration. An abstract is required and will be printed in the conference program if received before the print deadline posted. After you have successfully registered, please send your abstract via email at HarlemParade.Festivals@HCS2k.org. For further Questions? Please contact 646-643-8563; 646-633-4645; 646-633-4655; FAX: 646-225-6678 or email at HarlemParade.Festivals@HCS2k.org

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