

Abstract Guidelines:

Title

The title should reflect the content and emphasis of the project described in the report. It should be as short as possible and include essential key words.

Abstract

The abstract should, in the briefest terms possible, describe the:

- (1) **General Topic** – Usually about one sentence describing the topic investigated and why it is important (relevance to AGFD)
- (2) **Scope** - One or two sentences describing the specific question being addressed or relationship investigated.
- (3) **Method** -One or two sentences describing analytical methods.
- (4) **Principal findings** - One or two sentences explaining the principle finding. Be specific and state only main point(s).
- (5) **Conclusions**- A single sentence that summarizes what you found out from results or relationship investigated.

The total length of should not exceed 150 words.

Design Suggestions for Scientific Posters

- Each horizontal poster board measures 4 feet high x 6 feet wide (including frame).
- Allow ample time to prepare your poster.
- All posters should feature a title, your name, the name of the institution where the research was performed, and should credit other contributors, as appropriate.
- The author's name (e.g., Mary B. Chung) should follow the title on a separate line, followed by the author's affiliation (e.g., Department of Chemistry, Central State College, Central, AR 76123), the date, and possibly the origin of the report (e.g., In partial fulfillment of a Senior Thesis Project under the supervision of Professor Danielle F. Green, June, 1997).
- Use a crisp, clean design. All lettering should be legible from about 5 feet (1.5 m) away. Title lettering should be about 2" to 3" (5 to 7.5 cm). Subheading lettering should be 1/2" to 1" high (1.25 to 2.5 cm). Text lettering should be approximately 24 points (1/4" or .625 cm).
- Make illustrations simple and bold, with captions at least 3/8" (.939 cm) high. Enlarge photos, tables, and charts to show pertinent details clearly.
- Do not tell the entire research history. Present only enough data to support your conclusions and show the originality of the work. The best posters display a succinct statement of major conclusions at the beginning, followed by supporting text and a brief summary at the end.
- Displayed materials should be self-explanatory, freeing you for discussion.
- Poster elements should be mounted on 1/8" (.313 cm) foam-core board or less. Thicker boards and heavy paper will be difficult to pin onto poster boards.
- Enhance your effectiveness by mounting your poster on a solid, colored background.

- Utilize other techniques to improve the graphic impact. Use color to add emphasis and clarity. Simplicity, ease of reading, etc., are more important than artistic flair. Keep in mind that lighting may be dim inside large poster sessions, so make sure your contrasts and color combinations are easy to read.
- You may want to bring handouts of your abstract or copies of your data and conclusions to share with interested viewers. Some authors also provide sign-up sheets to record names and addresses of attendees who might wish more information, reprints, etc.