



North Star STEM Alliance 2010 Student Research Symposium Poster Details

Presenters should arrive earlier enough to register and have poster set up by 4:00 pm

Poster specifications:

The poster board that will display your poster size is 4' tall x 8' wide and will be provided. Your poster should be one of the following dimensions:

- 36" tall x 48" wide
- 36" tall x 24" wide
- *If you plan on showing your poster at multiple conferences, use smaller dimensions than the size of the board.*

Poster design:	
Title	Graphs
Introduction	Method
Results	Conclusions/ Discussion
References	Author (name underlined)/ Contact information
University affiliation or sponsoring program	Co-authors (graduate student or post doc mentor, faculty advisor)

Poster creation:

- Online tutorial: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/research/instruction/modules/lsamp-poster/index.html>
- Templates: We have created 2 templates for students who were funded by the North Star: http://www.northstarstem.org/events/2010/3/30/north_star_stem_alliance_student_research_symposium
- Software options: Microsoft PowerPoint or Adobe Illustrator

Printing:

- Research sponsored by North Star STEM Alliance will receive funding for poster printing. Please see your site coordinator for details prior to printing.
- UMN Posters – www.umnposters.com
- UMN OIT Computer Lab - <http://oit.umn.edu/computerlabs/> or <http://oit.umn.edu/computerlabs/using/printing/coffmanlfp/index.html>.
- Center for Cognitive Science - <http://www.cogsci.umn.edu/membership.html>
- UMN Map Library - <http://map.lib.umn.edu/printing.html>
- UMN Printing Services - <http://www.printing.umn.edu/printing/services/PrintServices.htm#>
- FedEx Office – <http://www.fedex.com/us/office/>

Poster judging:

Prizes will be awarded to presenters based on the following criteria:

- Appearance of the poster display
- Poster organization and preparation
- Originality and merit
- Knowledge and presentation



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Things to Bring:

- Your research poster
- Extra pins to hang your poster
- (12), 8.5"x11" printouts of your poster and a 9"x12" manila envelope

Presenting the Poster:

Plan and practice a 2-5 minute explanation your research, using the poster content as the source of important information.

1. Focus on the main research question/problem, and then your hypothesis. This is a pitch, so make it interesting. Do not focus on citing previous research.
2. Who, what and where (summary of methodology).
3. Use your findings, show your graphs, and take the time to point out the major elements and why they are important.
4. Wrap the presentation with the relevance of your findings, and maybe some next steps.
5. Ask them if they have any questions, and move on to your next audience member.
6. Please leave your poster up after the session, so that others may walk through and see the poster. Place print outs in the manila envelope and tack it to the poster board underneath the poster. That way folks can still contact you after the conference if they have any questions.

Be a Professional:

1. Review a draft version of your poster with your faculty mentor or graduate advisers.
2. Dress professional. First impressions count, and the more seriously you appear to take the research endeavor, the more your audience will respect you as a careful researcher.
3. Be respectful. Smile, introduce yourself, make steady eye contact, ask questions where appropriate, etc. Thank them for their questions or concerns, get their email, and tell them you'd love to get more feedback about the project at a later point (i.e. not during the poster session). Always thank your audience for their attention, questions, etc.
4. Take the initiative. Be the one to ask if they have a question, or would like to be walked through the poster.
5. Follow up. After the conference, if you promised someone you would email the paper to them, or make contact – then do it.
6. Sell yourself. Be excited about your research. Think about what to say before you say it. Maintain an open mind, enjoy the conversations. You never know who you will work with.



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7. Be clear, be respectable, and most of all be a professional.