

Guidelines and Resources for Presenting a Poster at a Professional Conference

A poster presentation is a way for you to communicate your work to an audience orally. Although your audience can read your poster, you should prepare an ‘elevator talk’ – if you ran into someone in an elevator, you could present your idea to them in under three minutes (it’s a long elevator ride!). Although your paper should adhere to APA guidelines, you may bullet point your text where appropriate.

<http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx>

Here are great resources that not only show examples of posters, but include some useful tips. It is expected that you read this prior to designing your poster:

1. Cornell Center for Materials Research: <http://www.cns.cornell.edu/documents/ScientificPosters.pdf>
2. Colin Purrington: <http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign>
3. Sample psychology research posters: <https://www.kimberleyduff.com/student-research>

4. APA guidelines at the Western Psychological Association:
<http://westernpsych.org/poster-design/>

Garr Reynolds at Presentation Zen has some of the best tips for preparing, displaying and communicating information. Please check out his website at <http://www.garrreynolds.com/preso-tips/>

Interested in what an actual conference poster session looks like, then check out these images of Cerritos College students presenting at past conferences, including sample posters:

<https://www.kimberleyduff.com/student-research>

Printing your poster:

For conference presentations, I’ve found that posterpresentations.com has some great free templates and offers competitive pricing. Fabric posters can be printed for even lower cost at <https://www.spoonflower.com/>

Poster boards are generally 48 inches high and 84 inches wide, you may have a poster that is 36 inches high and 56 inches wide.

Sample posters for guidance
(see kimberleyduff.com for additional examples)

