

Bio 257 Final Projects: More information about presentations

General information

Your **presentations** should include the following sections:

Title, with your **names**

Abstract

Introduction

4-5 figures including: descriptive titles

figure legends

schematic diagrams of experiments (optional but encouraged)

Conclusions

Comparison: Mammalian immunology and non-mammalian system in poster **OR**
Human disease and disease in animal model

Future directions

References

The **abstract** (roughly 200-300 words) should be **emailed** to me by **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3** so that I can assemble a booklet and get it copied by the time presentations start on the next **Monday, December 8**.

Teamwork is key--decide who will be responsible for which parts of the poster and then work together to revise and improve each section. At the end of the course, you will each be asked to summarize your own and your partner's contributions to the project.

Project design and presentation

Generally speaking, "we learn:

10% of what we **read**

20% of what we **hear**

30% of what we **see**

50% of what we **see and hear**

60% of what we **write**

70% of what is **discussed**

80% of what we **experience** and

95% of what we **teach**"¹

I hope we will be able to tap into as many of these forms of learning as possible in the group projects to maximize what we all learn about new topics in Immunology.

Although many people can learn through reading, one can benefit from poster sessions by having them be as **interactive** as possible. For the **poster symposium**, therefore, **each person will be assigned a time during which s/he will be responsible for leading people through the content of their poster**--pointing out major ideas and fielding questions (rather than having people wander around trying to read through entire posters on their own). Several posters will be presented simultaneously, so when you are not assigned to present, **you will visit other posters and discuss them** with their presenter. You will also be assigned two presentations to evaluate specifically.

¹ Uno, Gordon E., *Handbook on Teaching Undergraduate Science Courses* (Orlando: Saunders College Publishing, 1999), 2.

Citations and References

Proper citations will also be important for the poster. You can **number** the **references** in the list and **use those numbers** for the **in-text citations**. Please include **titles** in the **reference list**. **Any ideas that are not your own, as well as direct quotes and data, need citations and accompanying references.**

Formatting instructions

Poster

The corkboards for the posters are about **3.5 ft. high and 5.5 ft. wide**. For simplicity's sake, I would recommend making **each panel 8x10 in** or smaller (except for titles). Sometimes this size may mean using more than one panel for a given piece of text. For stability and aesthetics, I would recommend using a glue stick or spray glue to attach each panel to poster board, which can then be tacked to the corkboard. There are **free recycled poster boards** (of variable quality) available (just ask me for one).

Alternatively, you can use **powerpoint** to make a **one-piece poster** than can be printed at the **copy center**. You will need to make an **appointment**, which are scheduled in **one-hour blocks** from **9 am-3 pm on weekdays only**, so you will probably need to be **finished by Fri., Dec. 5**. The end of the semester is a busy time for poster printing, so if you want to use this format, you should make your appointment **SOON!**

Before embarking on making a poster in this format, you should **read** the **instructions** for the **copy center printing**, which can be found at:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/it/services-faculty/multimedia/largeformatprinter.shtml>

You can also find a **template** for such a poster on the Chemistry Dept. resources website:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/chemistry/resources/index.shtml>

I have **posted several examples** from the last Immunology poster symposium in the hallway **outside my lab** (Druck 236B). Take a look at these examples and **think about what their strengths and weaknesses are**: are there helpful diagrams? are there too many words? is the organization clear? can you understand the figures without someone describing them? is the writing easy to read?

Other thoughts on poster design

Bullet points make it easier to absorb information on a poster (although the abstract should be in paragraph form).

Each **figure** should have a short corresponding **figure legend** to tell us 1. **what** the figure shows and 2. **where** it comes from.

Diagrams that **explain experimental design** are also particularly useful!

Font: BIG AND BOLD IS BEAUTIFUL! You want people to be able to read the text from at least 3-4 ft away. Here are my recommendations:

Abstract, conclusions and other paragraphs of text: at least **18 pt.**

Figure titles: **48-54 pt.**

Title of poster: at least **72 pt.**

→ Please feel free to **consult** me about any aspect of these presentations. I have spent a lot of time thinking about what makes an effective presentation (and being coached by others about my presentations) and I'd be happy to share my thoughts/opinions.