

Instructions for writing a Poster

A Poster scientific article must be structured so that it is manageable and easy to read. Posters must follow the IMR&D structure(introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion).

You should ask your course manager about the expected length of each section as this likely differs between courses.

Structure for posters:

1. Title
2. Author list
3. Abstract
4. Introduction
5. Materials and Methods
6. Results
7. Discussion
8. Conclusion
9. Acknowledgements
10. Author contributions
11. References

1. Title

2. Author list

First Author^{1,*}, Second Author^{2,‡}, and Third Author^{1,2,‡}

¹Affiliation, department, city, postcode, country

²Affiliation, department, city, postcode, country

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[‡]these authors contributed equally to this work

3. Abstract

The abstract gives the reader a short “preview” of what they can expect to read in the article. Abstracts should be one paragraph, of about 100-250 words. No references, subheadings, or abbreviations in an abstract.

You can write an abstract in 6 sentences:

- (1) Why is the topic of interest?

- (2) Research problem(s) you investigated
- (3) The basic design of the study
- (4-5) The major results
- (6) A brief summary of your final conclusions.

4. Introduction

The introduction should include a brief background on the topic of investigation clearly summarized in your own words, including a few choice citations so that the reader can find further information if necessary. The introduction should expand on the abstract:

- Why is the topic of interest?
- What is the research problem(s) and what has been the previously used solution(s)
- What was the basic design of your study? Also include why you think that your approach will be better than the previously used solutions.
- What will be presented in this poster? Clearly state your hypotheses briefly how you will test them experimentally. The final sentence of the introduction should give a short summary of the results directly addressing your research question e.g. “We found that.....”.

5. Materials and Methods

Describe an overview of the methods used to obtain your results in a flow diagram or in the figure captions of the results.

- Do not include: source of materials and manufacturers of equipment.
- Include 1 or 2 important references to standard methods.
- Include relevant equations; do not show calculations.

6. Results

Most of the focus of the poster should be on the results shown in figures or tables. Posters generally have very large figures with detailed figure captions explaining the results shown and the methods used to generate them. Often posters do not include any results text, relying solely on the figures and tables to present the results.

- It is very important to be selective in the results that you choose to present – if it is not interesting, don’t include it.
- Format of figures
 - Make figures clear and easy to read and keep always the same format
 - Remember to add the axis legend
 - Don’t repeat the same information in different figures or in tables
 - Remember to number the figures and tables
 - Figures captions are place under the figure
 - The figure caption should include a description of the figure, an explanation of what is presented, and a description of the methods.
- Format of tables
 - Tables need to be clear and easy to read and always have the same format
 - Tables need a table number, a table title, and the units of the data need to be clearly specified
 - Use footnotes for further explanation.

- Be accurate with numbers. (significant figures)
- Tables caption are place above the figure.

7. Discussion

The Discussion section of a poster is very short (approx.. 5 sentences). Briefly discuss the most significant results and how these results relate to your hypothesis and any published literature.

8. Conclusion

In posters, Conclusions are often the final 1-2 sentences of your Discussion section. Emphasize why your work is relevant and what future work you plan to do (if hypothetically you continued with this work).

9. Acknowledgements

Here you thank those who helped with the experiments, data analysis, interpretation of results etc. but who are not included in the author list.

10. Author contributions

Here you should briefly state which author did what in the article; just refer to the authors by their initials e.g. All experiments were designed by S.M.W, C.M.P, and E.J.E. S.M.W carried out assays, C.M.P performed statistical analyses, E.J.E undertook modelling, all authors wrote and reviewed the final manuscript.

11. References

Only include references for the most important sources in a poster (max. 5-8 references). References do not need to have the same font size as the rest of the poster text.

Different reference styles can be chosen. However it is important to be consistent during the whole document. All references must be included in the text. (As numbers or author last name and year)

