

# BIOL2009 Preparing a poster

## Directed Self learning activities

There are many guidelines to create a good poster (see handout on guidelines). The following activities will help you to develop your own.

### Activity 1 –Focus on effective communication

A poster should convey the most important information very effectively. In addition to the visual aids, the selection of words and material should be careful and keep it to the minimum. This activity should help you to decide on the most important information to communicate on the poster.

Look at the suggested poster sections in the assignment guidelines (Module Handbook), and you could also see the guidelines handout.

Find a classmate/ friend and very briefly (use one or 2 minutes per section) tell them about your placement. After each section, check if the idea was clear and write down the main ideas.

You could use the attached proforma to write down notes.

That will be the outline for your poster.

### Activity 2 -What makes a good poster?

This activity uses examples of posters to highlight good practice and avoid ineffective features.

1. Identify a collection of at least 5 different posters (i.e. the corridors of the first floor of the Davy Building (or Smeaton building) have research posters on display). Notice the titles, sections and navigation, color choice, text, graphs, etc.
2. You could use the attached proforma to take notes
3. Write down 5 things that you like the most on any particular poster
4. Write down the 5 things that you find more annoying/ ineffective
5. Exchange your views with peers/ others, so that you have a sense of what is generally effective/ ineffective.
6. Complete a list of things that you/ others would like to see in a good poster. Be careful to avoid those things in the negative list.

## A1: Placement Poster outline - Focus on main ideas

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where was the placement ?-Description of organisation, their mission...</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What did you do? – (Description of student roles/project/ jobs. Aim)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What approach was followed ? (methods, techniques)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What was obtained/ learned / achieved ? (Results, outcome, gains)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How relevant it was? (Links to biology/ degree/ Discussion / links to previous reports/ theoretical science base)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What did you learned ? Skills acquired during placement</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I also want to say... Any other relevant material (eg social life, team activities).</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who helped? (advisors/ collaborators/ funding / acknowledgements)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can you say it in a few words? (Title)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How would you say it without words ? (picture/ graph/ diagrams)?</li></ul>

## A2 - What makes a good poster?

- Notes on posters

- **Best features** (Write down 5 things that are effective/ good practice)

1

2

3

4

5

- **Disliked features** (Write down 5 things to avoid)

1

2

3

4

5

Remember to amend your list considering the views of others