

Psychology Senior Exercise: Preparing a Poster Describing a Research Question

Choose a research question in your area of interest (from your senior seminar). This question can be related to the research proposal that you wrote for your seminar. However, the question chosen must be a unique. This will be an extension, into a related area, that allows you to further explore your general topic of interest.

Prepare a poster to present your research question with the following formatting:

- Poster size is 3' X 3'
- Use powerpoint poster example from psychology department website as a guideline
- Use a white background on the poster to preserve ink (you can use color elsewhere)
- Font size should be 36 for the body (larger, 40, for the title, and smaller, 24, for the references and text on a graphs/tables)
- The text serves as an outline for the poster. Therefore lengthy text should NOT be used. Bullet points or very brief sections of text are recommended.
- Posters should use text sparingly and emphasize the visual and oral presentation of the material

Content of the poster:

- Make a case that this is an important research question to study (e.g., research on this variable tests an important stated theory, there are important real-world applications of this work)
 - Objective: To demonstrate your depth of understanding in the chosen field
- Tell us the best and/or typical way that psychologists have manipulated or measured variables relevant to your question (make sure you are aware of reliability and validity issues) and describe the populations studied (ecological validity).
 - Objective: To show that you understand research methodology
- Present a published finding related to this question – describe the method by which it was produced, the statistical analysis(es) involved, and include a graphical display of the data (an actual graph or a model that contains statistical values). You do not need to provide all of the data from the article. It is possible that you will present data that the authors of the article also present, but **you must create your own graph** or figure (even if it looks like their graph or figure from the article). You can use approximate values that illustrate the trend that was found if you cannot get exact values. The graph should be visually appealing and present the data in a clear and straightforward manner.
 - Objective: To demonstrate quantitative reasoning and visual literacy
- What do you think are appropriate future directions for research related to this question?
 - Objective: To display critical evaluation of this literature
- Include a reference list of at least ten references directly related to the topic. On the reference list the majority of the references need to have been published within the last ten years. Thus, this needs to be a recent topic of interest to psychologists. The quality of the references will be evaluated by the faculty and should include a diverse selection of authors who have published in top tier journals (see list of recommended sources).

THE ELECTRONIC .PDF OF YOUR POSTER NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO MS. HASHMAN ONE WEEK BEFORE THE POSTER SESSION, at 12 pm. Also submit a copy of all text on the poster in a separate Microsoft Word document for submission to Turnitin.com and an electronic copy (.pdf) of the article that you have chosen to feature in the poster.

Sections of the poster:

The following sections should be included on the poster, in some way, but can be labeled and organized in any way that makes sense for your project:

- **Title of Poster and Your Name**
- **Introduction and Background** - Describes the research question and the justification for studying this topic (NOTE: an abstract is *not* necessary)
- **Measurement** – Discusses the typical way the variables relevant to your question are measured or manipulated, including information about reliability and validity
- **Sample of Published Results** – Briefly describe a sample study, including a description of the sample and the generalizability of the findings. Present some of the results, including statistical values in your response. Include at least one graph or visual display of data.
- **Future Directions** – Suggest future directions for research related to your question
- **Tables and Figures** – At least one figure (with statistical values) must be provided; tables may be included as appropriate
- **References** – The list should appear on the poster itself, but should be in size 24 font so as to not take up too much room

Poster Grading:

On the day of the poster session three faculty will be randomly assigned to visit your poster for about ten minutes each and they will ask you questions and later assign a grade for your poster and performance based on the following criteria:

Score	Available Points	Domain
_____	10	Clear and accurate description of the research question
_____	5	Good justification for studying the research question
_____	5	Clear and accurate description of the measurement or manipulation of key variables
_____	5	Good understanding of reliability and validity issues associated with measurement/manipulation
_____	5	Good description of the sample and understanding of the representativeness and generalizability
_____	5	Good choice of empirical study to illustrate an important finding
_____	10	Good understanding of statistical test presented
_____	10	Good graphic display of data
_____	5	Good suggestions for future research
_____	5	Good, relevant collection of references provided
_____	10	Good understanding of the general body of research represented in the references cited
_____	10	Overall, the poster has appropriate visual appeal (i.e., poster colors, text, and images do not distract from content but do encourage interest; text is presented in bullet points, not full paragraphs)
_____	5	APA style in references and figures is correct; Poster is free from typos/errors
_____	10	Overall, student shows competence (e.g., verbal fluency) and confidence (e.g., eye contact) in answering questions

During the poster session, you should be able to demonstrate, in brief conversation with the faculty members, the expertise you have acquired on this topic. Faculty will meet as a group to discuss each poster and assign a final grade for each.

If the total grade is below 70, you will not pass this portion of the exercise. You will then be asked to write a literature review on the chosen topic. If you do not successfully complete this rewrite, you will not graduate with your class.

Students who fail to complete the poster presentation at the designated time will be required to write a literature review without feedback/input from faculty graders. Failure to complete the poster (or subsequent rewritten paper, if necessary) will result in failure of the comprehensive exam and prevent completion of the psychology major.

The poster grade represents $2/3$ of the comps grade and the ETS percentile score represents the other $1/3$.