

Psychology Senior Exercise: Preparing a Poster Describing a Psychological Variable

Choose a psychological variable in your area of interest (from your senior seminar) and prepare a poster to present with the following formatting:

- Poster size is 3' X 3'
- Use powerpoint poster example from psychology department website
- Use a white background on the poster to preserve ink (you can use color elsewhere)
- Font size should be at least 24 for the body (larger for the title, perhaps smaller for the text on a graph)

Content of the poster:

- Make a case that this is an important variable to study (e.g., research on this variable tests an important theory, there are important real-world applications of this work, etc.)
- Tell us the best and/or typical way that psychologists have manipulated or measured this variable (make sure you are aware of reliability and validity issues)
- Present a published finding related to this variable – describe the method by which it was produced, the statistical analysis(es) involved, and include a graphic display of the data (an actual graph or a model or table 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.
- What do you think are appropriate future directions for research with this variable? What don't we know about this variable?
- Please send a .pdf copy of your poster as well as 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 ELECTRONIC .PDF AND REFERENCES NEED TO BE READY ONE WEEK BEFORE THE POSTER SESSION AND SENT TO MS. HASHMAN

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 Paper and Name of Author**
- **Introduction and Background** - Describes the variable and the justification for studying the variable
- **Measurement** – Discusses the typical way the variable is measured or manipulated, including information about reliability and validity
- **Sample of Published Results** – Briefly describe a sample study and 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 on the variable
- **Tables and Figures** – At least one table or figure (with statistical values) must be provided
- **References?** – The list does not need to appear on the poster itself, but if you place it there it should can be in a smaller font so as to not take up too much room

(note – no abstract is expected)

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:

<u>Score</u>	<u>Available Points</u>	<u>Domain</u>
_____	10	Clear and accurate description of the variable
_____	5	Good justification for studying the variable
_____	10	Clear and accurate description of the measurement or manipulation of the variable
_____	5	Good understanding of reliability and validity issues associated with measurement/manipulation
_____	10	Good choice of empirical study to illustrate an important finding
_____	10	Good understanding of statistical test presented
_____	5	Good graphic display of data
_____	5	Good suggestions for future research
_____	10	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)
_____	10	Overall, student shows competence and confidence in answering questions

Faculty will meet as a group to discuss each poster and assign a final grade for each. This grade represents 2/3rd of the comps grade and the ETS percentile score represents the other 1/3.

