

Present Your Poster at a Conference

SUBMITTING TO A CONFERENCE:

For most conferences, scientists submit an abstract of their poster, and the conference committee decides whether or not to accept it. It is important that your abstract be clear, very concise, and scientifically interesting. An abstract is 5 to 10 sentences long, and shorter is better. Follow the four steps below to construct your abstract. **Write 1–2 sentences for each part.** After you finish, join all the sentences together. Read it through aloud to ensure the paragraph flows nicely.

PURPOSE OF STUDY: Why did you study this?	
METHODOLOGY: How did you do this? (vertical transect, total counts of organisms in a defined area)	
RESULTS: What did you find out?	
CONCLUSION: Relate back to the purpose of the study and explain why your finding is important.	

PREPARING TO PRESENT AT A CONFERENCE:

Congratulations on being accepted to present at a scientific conference! Now it is time to prepare. Think about the logistics and plan ahead. You also need to practice speaking about your poster. Scientists will ask you about your research during the poster session. You must be prepared to give a short synopsis of your research and answer questions about your poster like, “Can you tell me about your project?” and “Where you you think this project should go next?”

HERE IS A CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO COMPLETE BEFORE PRESENTATION DAY:

- My poster is printed and ready to present.
- I know when and where the poster session will be.
- I have reliable transportation.
- I can state my findings in one clear sentence.
- I can give a 3–5 sentence summary of my poster.
- I can explain each graph on my poster.
- I can explain how the data were collected.
- I can discuss potential future research.
- I can discuss the limitations of the data.
- I practiced presenting my poster to two people.
- My teacher says I’m ready to present.
- I’m bringing a water bottle since I’ll be talking a lot.