



“Scientific Posters as Teaching Tools”

Licia Ray's Tips and Advice

What can you do to improve your poster presentation skills?

- Every poster presentation should be able to be given in 5, 10-15 and 30 minute blocks.
- You need to provide your audience with a motivation for your piece of work. Where does it fit in the larger context?
- The more pictures/graphs/illustrations and COLOR, the better!
- Define symbols right on your poster. When you are not there, readers will know what you mean by H_0 ...
- When you're NOT at your poster, network around the room. Read other relevant posters and invite people over to read your poster.
- Point to your poster as you talk. Watch out for eye glazing to know when you need to wrap up and move on.
- Use different colors for different sections of your poster.
- The hardest thing is to juggle different people as they come by your poster.
- Have water (or beverage of your choice) in your hand to reduce fidgeting and help your speaking voice (it's not easy to talk for hours on end).
- Insert text (and arrows if necessary) on plots to highlight the main points. It is clearer and more effective than a caption.
- If you are plotting multiple lines, use different colors instead of varying line styles.
- Practice flow before hand to make sure that relevant information is covered in a logical order.
- If you opt to put your poster together as individual slides, then it's easier to put together a PowerPoint presentation later!



Reflections

How can posters be used as a teaching tool for:

- scientific peers
- the classroom
- the general community?

Has anyone ever used a poster to teach you about something? What was it like?

Are some scenarios/topics easier/harder to incorporate posters as teaching tools?

References

“Creating Effective Poster Presentations :: An Effective Poster”

<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/NewSite/index.html>

Using color with colorblindness in mind...

<http://www.neitzvision.com/content/colorblindworld.html>

Advice on Designing Scientific Posters

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm>