POSTER MAKING TIPS

GSA meeting: Each poster booth will typically a full size board (8’ x 4’ high) and access to half of a 6 foot table.

AGU meeting: Each presenter is typically provided with a 4-foot-high by 6-foot-wide poster board. Poster boards have a 2.5 cm (1-inch) frame. Dimensions of the useable work area are 1.2 meters high by 1.8 meters wide (4 feet x 6 feet).

Typical GSA & AGU Poster Recommendations:

- The presentation must cover the material as in the abstract.
- Place the title of your poster and your poster number prominently at the top of the poster board to allow viewers to identify your paper. Indicate 1) the poster number, 2) title, and 3) authors’ names.
- Highlight the authors’ names, e-mails, and address information in case the viewer is interested in contacting you for more information.
- Organize the content of your poster board so it is clear, orderly, and self-explanatory. You have complete freedom in displaying your information in figures, tables, text, photographs, etc.
- Don’t crowd too much information into the presentation; concentrate on two or three main points. Highlight your title, headings, and subheadings with colors or colored lines.
- Prepare all diagrams or charts neatly and legibly beforehand in a size sufficient to be read at a distance of 2 meters. Paragraph and figure caption text should be AT LEAST 24-point font (0.9 cm height) and headers AT LEAST 36 point font (1.2 cm height). Format headings and subheadings to be at least 25% larger than the regular text, and in bold or semi bold.
- Use creativity by using different font sizes and styles, perhaps even color.
- Use different colors and textures/symbols for each line or bar contained in your graph or chart. A serif font (e.g., Times) is often easier for reading main text, and a non-serif font (e.g., Arial or Helvetica) for headers and figure labels.
- Text in upper and lower case letters is more readable than all capitals. Text type should be at least 1/4-inch (0.64 cm) tall and readable from a distance of 6 feet (1.8 m).
- Keep your text in short, concise, legible statements; minimize complete sentences and paragraphs.
- Use squares, rectangles, circles, etc., to group like ideas. Avoid cluttering your poster with too much text. Label different elements as I, II, III; or 1, 2, 3; or A, B, C, making it easier for a viewer to follow your display.
- Include the background of your research followed by results and conclusions. A successful poster presentation depends on how well you convey information to an interested audience.