Essentials for a Good Abstract and Poster

ESSENTIALS OF A GOOD ABSTRACT

In order to facilitate the evaluation of your Abstract by the Program Committee, we have developed this document which outlines what we feel are the essential elements of a well-written Abstract. The same structure is valid for making a Poster. They can be printed full-size by Visual Media (in the basement of Emerson Hall). Sometimes, however, your lab mentor may have their own poster styles they prefer to showcase your work—so you should consult with your mentor first.

The essentials of a Good Abstract include:
- Pertinent background information briefly summarized;
- The hypothesis or rationale for the study stated clearly;
- Brief description of the material & methods, and models used ;
- The results of the study, with statistical comparisons (if appropriate);
- Your interpretation of the results (summary) and conclusions based on this interpretation.

EFFECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION

Guidelines Posters should be readable by viewers five feet away. The message should be clear and understandable without oral explanation. The following guidelines have been prepared to help improve the effectiveness of poster communication.

1. ***Initial Sketch*** Plan your poster early. Focus your attention on a few key points. Try various styles of data presentation to achieve clarity and simplicity. Does the use of color help? What needs to be expressed in words? Suggest headlines and text topics.
2. ***Rough Layout*** Enlarge your best initial sketch, keeping the dimensions in proportion to the final poster (see diagram). Ideally, the rough layout should be full size. A blackboard is a convenient place to work. Print the titles and headlines. Indicate text by horizontal lines. Draw rough graphs and tables. This will give you a good idea of proportion and balance. If you are working with an artist, show him/her the Poster layout. Ask associates for comments. This is still an experimental stage.
3. ***Final Layout*** The artwork is complete. The text and tables are typed but not necessarily enlarged to full size. Now ask, is the message clear? Do the important points stand out? Is there a balance between words and illustrations? Is there spatial balance? Is the pathway throughout poster clear?
4. ***Balance*** The figures and tables should cover slightly more than 50% of the poster area. If you have only a few illustrations, make them large. Do not omit the text, but keep it brief. The poster should be understandable without oral explanation.

5. ***Typography*** Avoid abbreviations, acronyms and jargon. Use a consistent type style throughout. Use large type, for example, ORATOR. An 8½ x 11" sheet of paper photo statically enlarged by 50% makes the text readable from five feet.
6. ***Eye Movement*** The movement (pathway) of the eye over the poster should be natural - down the columns or along the rows. Size attracts attention. Arrows, pointing hands, numbers and letters can help clarify the sequence.
7. ***Simplicity*** The temptation to overload the poster should be resisted. More material may mean less communication.
8. ***Poster Presentation Rules -*** The poster-board surface area is 40" high and 60" wide. Prepare a 4" high headline strip that runs the full width of the poster. Include the title, authors and affiliations on the strip in letters not less than 1" high. Post a large typed copy of your abstract in the upper left-hand corner.
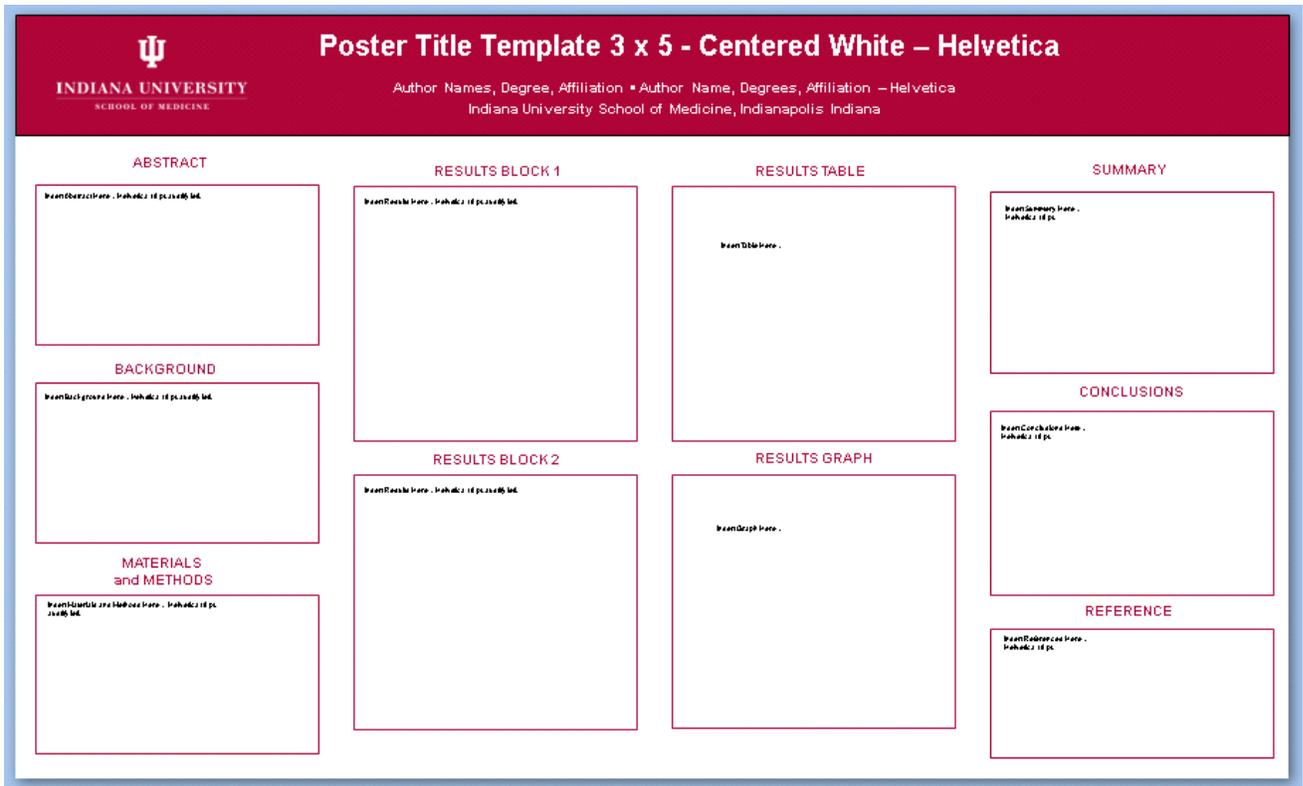
Authors are requested to place their poster material on the board & easel by 3:00 p.m. on the scheduled day of presentation (October 11, 2011 in the Medical Science Building Atrium). Be prepared to stay with your poster and discuss your work with those who pass by.

Poster Title Template 3 x 5 - Centered White – Helvetica

Author Names, Degree, Affiliation ▪ Author Name, Degrees, Affiliation – Helvetica
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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

MATERIALS
and METHODS

RESULTS BLOCK 1

RESULTS BLOCK 2

RESULTS TABLE

RESULTS GRAPH

SUMMARY

CONCLUSIONS

REFERENCE

We hope these guidelines will be of use to you. **SEE SAMPLES of Poster ABOVE.**