

SECTION 8

ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISSERTATION DEFENSE

8. ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISSERTATION DEFENSE How to present a Poster

A scientific poster is not a research report or an article, but an illustrated summary.

The purpose of a poster is to present a piece of research on a board or wall in A2 or A1 format. The poster must be attractive, structured and succinct.

It is recommended that the poster be self-contained (understandable without explanation from the author), convincing (for the reader), not dense (30% text, 40% illustrations and 30% empty space) and can be read in 5 minutes.

The image shows a template for a research poster. At the top, there is a dark blue header bar containing a 'Logo' on the left, the title 'Research Poster Title: Important Words About Research Findings' in the center, and another 'Logo' on the right. Below the title, it says 'People who contributed to research'. The main body of the poster is divided into several sections: 'INTRODUCTION' (with a sub-section 'BACKGROUND'), 'METHODS' (with sub-sections 'Method Title 1' and 'Method Title 2'), 'CONCLUSIONS' (with sub-sections 'Conclusion 1' and 'Conclusion 2'), 'RESULTS' (a large central area), 'REFERENCES' (with a list of references: [1], [2], [3], [4], [5]), and 'ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS' (with a list of acknowledgements: [1], [2]).

Figure VIII.1. Example of a poster form

8.2. How to present an oral communication?

What's special about an oral presentation, as opposed to an article or poster, is that the information is given all at once, with no possibility of going back.

The general advice is to make it easy for the listener to understand.

An oral presentation should be linear, structured and simple.

8.3. Defending a dissertation

The oral defense of the dissertation is obligatory and requires careful preparation, as it is important on personal, academic and professional levels.

The aim of the oral presentation is to highlight the student's research work and the knowledge acquired during his or her training. In addition, it enables jury members to gain a better understanding of certain information contained in the dissertation, to assess the student's work and skills, and to evaluate his or her ability to present ideas clearly and answer questions.

The oral presentation is public, and generally consists of three stages:

- The student's oral presentation: about fifteen to twenty minutes. Slides must be legible (use large type and a single template for the entire presentation), easy to understand (not too busy with short comments) and simple (avoid sound animations).
- Questions from jury members: Jury members may ask questions about the work presented and all the knowledge acquired during the student's training.
- Jury deliberations in the absence of the student.

The evaluation takes into account the dissertation (form, errors, etc.), the oral presentation (form, clarity, etc.), the quality of the answers to questions, the scientific contribution of the subject and the student's work, and the supervisor's mark, although jury members may propose an overall mark.

