

Symposium Presentation Guide

by C. Kohn, Waterford WI



Name: _____ Hour _____ Date: _____

Date Assignment is due: end of class Why late? _____ Score: + ✓ -
Day of Week Date If your project was late, describe why

You will be presenting your research poster to the class to conclude this project. For your presentation, you will need to break up roles below among the people in your group. If you have less than four people, you can combine categories if needed. Be sure to address each of the following. When presenting, try to avoid speaking directly from notes.

Partner 1: Introduction

1. Begin by stating the research question, hypothesis, and rationale.
2. Next, summarize background information that your audience will need to understand in order to comprehend and appreciate your work.
 - a. *For example, if you are discussing how caffeine affected radish growth, you should probably provide some background information on what caffeine is and how it affects other living organisms.*
3. Conclude by stating your independent variable and dependent variable.

Partner 2: Methods

1. Begin by stating all the materials needed to conduct your experiment.
2. Conclude by summarize the steps used to conduct your experiment.
3. Be sure to address how you kept all other variables (besides the independent variable) constant in your experiment.

Partner 3: Results

1. Begin with a graph of your data. Summarize what the graph is showing. Be sure to explain how the x-axis and y-axis are labeled to aid your audience.
2. Next, state the significance of these results and how they relate to your hypothesis (do they support it? do they refute it?).
3. Conclude by addressing other observations made during the experiment that might not be reflected by this data.

Partner 4: Conclusion

1. Begin by restating the hypothesis.
2. Next, explain whether your team has decided that your hypothesis is correct or incorrect based on your data (or if you are unable to know at this moment).
3. Third, state the confidence you have in your results. Is this enough to answer your research question once and for all? Or is more data needed to come to be sure?
4. Conclude by stating what would should happen next in order to answer your question. Is more research needed? Should it be the same kind of research and/or should other questions be explored that might have arisen during your work?

Research Poster Checklist

- I. **Title: Does your title have...**
 - a. The study subject (the plant, animal, organism, or whatever it is that you worked with)
 - b. The independent variable and the dependent variable(s)
 - c. The final results
 - d. Your names, class, hour, and school

- II. **Introduction: does your introduction include...**
 - a. A summary of relevant background information (*the general scientific information the reader needs to know about your study subject and independent variable*) as compiled from other credible sources.
 - i. Use 3 or more credible sources (.gov or .edu sources).
 - ii. Each source should be cited parenthetically (for example: (Johnson, 2011)). .
 - b. The research question (*We wondered if...*)
 - c. The hypothesis (*We hypothesized that...*)
 - d. The rationale, or reason for your hypothesis (*We thought this would be the case because...*)
 - e. Overview/summary of your methods (*To test this hypothesis, we...*)

- III. **Methods: does your methods section include...**
 - a. A materials list
 - b. A cook-book recipe-style description of how you will conduct this experiment

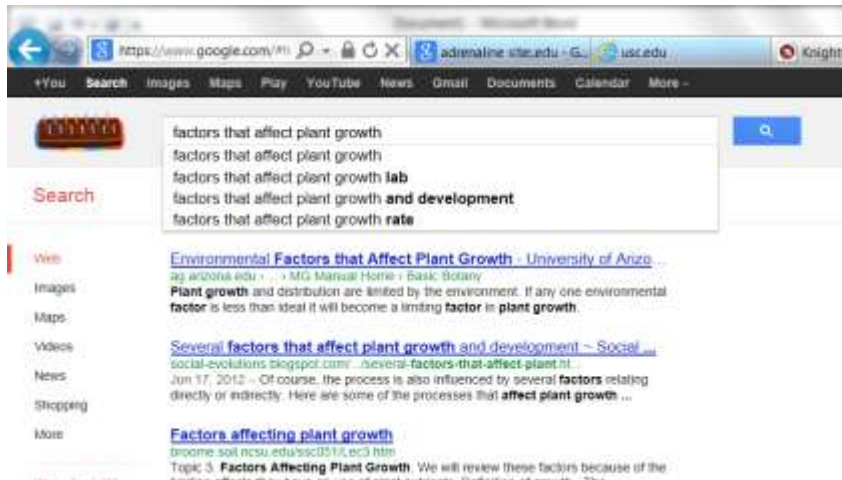
- IV. **Results: does this section include...**
 - a. A summary of your results, data, and observations
 - b. A graph/chart/table with results and...
 - i. A legend explaining all symbols or abbreviations and the x axis and y axis are both labeled
 - ii. A caption with a description that allows it to stand alone and also includes the important trends in the data

- V. **Discussion...**
 - a. First restate your hypothesis (*We hypothesized that...*)
 - b. Next, explain how this experiment affects your hypothesis
 - i. (*i.e. how does your data support/reject/not impact your hypothesis?*)
 - c. Third, describe why you think the data supports/refutes/does not affect your hypothesis
 - i. *What data or general trends have you considered that have led you to make this conclusion.*
 - d. Fourth, describe if you think your results are consistent or if there is a possibility that the results could be different if the experiment were run again or if it were done by other people.
 - e. Follow up with a discussion about what to do next.
 - i. *What should be done next to answer the research question? More research? Different research?*
 - ii. *Why is this work beneficial? What is the value of this experiment and why was it necessary?*

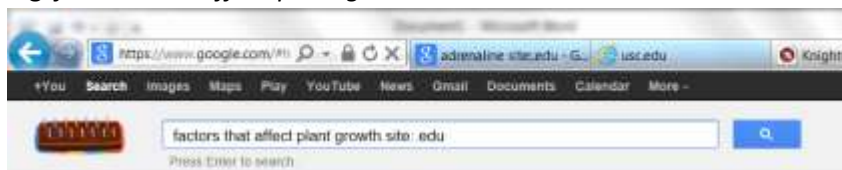
- VI. **Bibliography: does this section include...**
 - a. All sources used should be listed and each should include the...
 - i. Author's name (last name first, first name last)
 - ii. Date of publication
 - iii. Name of document
 - iv. Publishing agency
 - v. Website and date accessed (*if from online*)
 1. E.g. Badger, Bucky. 2012. "The Mechanisms of Gatorade." UW-Madison – www.wisc.edu
 2. Use <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php> as a guide
 - b. The sources should be alphabetized listing by author's last name (e.g. Arthur, J. would precede Baker, T.)

How To Limit Google Searches To Only Credible Sources

1. In Google, first enter what you are looking for.
 - a. E.g. *factors that affect plant growth*



2. After your search words, enter site:.edu or site:.gov
 - a. E.g. *factors that affect plant growth site:.edu*



3. Hit Enter. All of your sources will be from a .gov or .edu website

