**Research Poster Checklist: this is what your instructor will use to grade your work!**

1. Title: Does your title have…
   1. The study subject (the plant, animal, organism, or whatever it is that you worked with)
   2. The independent variable and the dependent variable(s)
   3. The expected results
   4. Your names, class, hour, and school
2. Introduction: does your introduction include…
   1. Relevant background information (*the general scientific information the reader needs to know before you can discuss your experiment) .*
      1. *Use 3 or more credible sources (.gov or .edu sources)*
   2. The experimental (research) question (*We wondered if…)*
   3. The hypothesis (*We hypothesized that…)*
   4. The rationale, or reason for your hypothesis (*We thought this would be the case because…)*
   5. Overview/summary of your methods (*To test this hypothesis, we…)*
3. Methods: does your methods section include…
   1. A materials list
   2. A cook-book recipe-style description of how you will conduct this experiment
4. Results: does this section include…
   1. A summary of your results, data, and observations
   2. A graph/chart/table with results and…
      1. A legend explaining all symbols or abbreviations and the x axis and y axis are both labeled
      2. A caption with a description that allows it to stand alone and also includes the important trends in the data
5. Discussion…
   1. First restate your hypothesis (*We hypothesized that…)*
   2. Next, explain how this experiment affects your hypothesis
      1. (*i.e. how does your data support/reject/not impact your hypothesis?)*
   3. Third, describe why you think the data supports/refutes/does not affect your hypothesis
      1. *What data or general trends have you considered that have led you to make this conclusion.*
   4. 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.
   5. Follow up with a discussion about the relevance of your experiment – who will this help?
      1. *Why is this work beneficial? What is the value of this experiment and why was it necessary?*
6. Bibliography: does this section include…
   1. All major sources, listing the…
      1. Author’s name (last name first, first name last)
      2. Date of publication
      3. Name of document
      4. Publishing agency
      5. Website and date accessed (*if from online*)
         1. E.g. *Badger, Bucky. 2012. “The Mechanisms of Gatorade.” UW-Madison –* [*www.wisc.edu*](http://www.wisc.edu)
         2. Use <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php> as a guide
   2. Alphabetized listing by author’s last name (e.g. Arthur, J. would precede Baker, T.)