

201(Penn State Hazleton Undergraduate Research Fair

Poster Judging Categories

- **Arts and Humanities** (including Behavioral Science such as Business Studies and Economics)
- **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
Student exhibits may be entered in only one category, which should be denoted in the abstract.

Poster Judging Criteria

The purpose of a poster exhibit is to convey to a wide audience a research project's significance to scholars in the field and its potential significance to the general public. Exhibits will be judged on their quality in four areas:

1) Content

The exhibit must include:

- Student name (or names, if more than one student is presenting the exhibit)
- Collaborators, adviser(s), and department(s)
- A short title of the exhibit
- Funding sources (if applicable)
- Objectives
- Significance to the field
- Significance to society in general
- Methods
- Results, interpretation of results and conclusions, and directions for future research if the project is completed. "Other" creative exhibits must include discussion of meaning and/or reflections on the body of work exhibited.

2) Display

The core of each exhibit is a poster with text and graphics intended for a general audience. PowerPoint-style presentations are not allowed as a substitute; however, a laptop or tablet may be used as a supplement to the poster or exhibit

- Poster should attract attention and convey important information about the project.
- Language should be simple and descriptions brief. Excessive jargon should be avoided; necessary technical terms should be defined.
- Spelling and grammar must be correct.
- Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs should be simple, well organized, and carefully chosen when used to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience.
- Poster should not exceed 3.5 feet in width and 4 feet in height (NCUR recommendation 36" x 42")

3) Oral Presentation

- Each student should prepare to describe and discuss his or her exhibit, tailored specifically to make the work understandable to a non-expert audience.
- Description should be clear and concise, and should include the major points presented on the poster.
- Presentation must not exceed 10 minutes; judges will be instructed to observe this time limit. Note: A videotape or demonstration cannot be submitted for the discussion.
- In cases where the student worked with collaborators, including his or her adviser, the presentation should clearly describe the student's role in the overall project.

4) Thoroughness

- All in all, does the project show creativity?
- Are there indications of original, critical thought?
- Does the project exhibit a thorough investigation of the topic?

Judging Rubric

1) Content - Assign each individual lettered item (a through f below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

- _____ a) Is the title specific and informative and all collaborators are acknowledged?
- _____ b) Have all necessary sources been cited in the text and referenced?
- _____ c) Is the hypothesis/objective stated clearly and concisely?
- _____ d) Is the significance to the field and to society in general clearly stated?
- _____ e) Have the data and results from the data been interpreted correctly?
- _____ f) Does the discussion/conclusion section address the major implications of the findings?

_____ **Total Score for Content (add the scores for items a-f)**

2) Visuals - Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

- _____ a) Does the exhibit attract attention and convey important information about the project?
- _____ b) Is the text written in a clear and concise manner, without spelling and grammatical errors?
- _____ c) Are technical terms clearly defined?
- _____ d) Are photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs well organized, understandable, and carefully chosen to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience?

_____ **Total Score for Display (add the scores for items a-d)**

3) Oral Presentation - Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

- _____ a) Was/were the presenter(s) self-confident, professional, and thoroughly knowledgeable about the research and information being presented?
- _____ b) Is the presentation understandable to a non-expert audience?
- _____ c) Were the major points of the research discussed in the oral presentation?
- _____ d) Did the student(s) clearly describe his/her/their role in the overall project and gave credit to any collaborators?

_____ **Total Score for Oral Presentation (add the scores for items a-d)**

4) Thoroughness - Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

- _____ a) All in all, does the project show creativity?
- _____ b) Are there indications of original, critical thought?
- _____ c) Does the project exhibit a thorough investigation of the topic?

_____ **Total Score for Thoroughness (add the scores for items a-c)**

_____ **TOTAL SCORE**

Judge's Comments:
