

# Assignment Type: Poster

## What is it

A poster is an effective way to disperse information. The information in the poster and audience determine the poster itself. For instance, the poster is designed differently for a health care audience than for the general public. It is common for professionals in many fields to present information to the general public and to their peers.

Posters inform and argue. When the poster is for professional research, the poster uncovers the research and presents the validity of the research.

## Why use it

A poster is a more demanding assignment than it first appears to be, and would be relevant to many courses. A poster is an assignment that mirrors “real world” applications and outside the classroom a poster is often presented to the public or other professionals in the field and therefore must be well written and polished. Students must learn to search the relevant databases for the discipline, evaluate material, and present the information in a concise, readable way.

## How to use it

A poster makes an excellent assignment that replaces an essay. Use a poster for assignments where you would normally ask the student to explain a concept or a topic in a paper. Provide instructions on how to create a poster. Consider using peer review for posters.

## Considerations

On the teaching website, you will find templates that you can offer your students so they are not burdened with designing the poster. You will also find an example poster that provides directions on creating posters, including some design advice. Additional instructional advice and a rubric is provided as well.

## Resources

- [Designing Communications for a Poster Fair](#)
  - This information from Penn State University on creating posters is well done and Kent has been given permission to use as is or alter the pdf to meet our student needs. Be sure to attribute the authors.
  
- [Ten Simple Rules for a Good Poster Presentation](#)
  - This tip sheet explains ten guidelines for creating an effective poster presentation.
  - **Reference:** Erren, T. C. & Bourne, P.E. (2007). Ten simple rules for a good poster presentation. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 3(5). 777-778. Retrieved from <http://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/>