Guidelines for Poster Sessions.

The main difference between a poster and an oral presentation is that in the poster you have most of what you want to say already written down. So the materials you prepare will be more extensive than for a written presentation, but not as much as a full paper on your work. The poster sessions will be conducted as far as possible as if you were at a scientific meeting. The poster should be prepared in PowerPoint or a similar presentation software package and you should include the following sections:

A title slide: the title of your project in large type that can be seen from 20 feet away, the names of your group (with first names to encourage personal interactions), and your institution and department. (In smaller type)

An abstract: 200-250 words briefly outlining the project, what you did and what you found.

Introduction: A clear statement of the problem you are trying to solve, the project aims and objectives. Less in depth than in a paper.

Results: Illustrative examples of the main areas of your work, use graphs, spectra, and structures where necessary.

Discussion: An overview of the results you obtained and their significance

Conclusion: the main findings of your work and recommendations for further investigations – what you would do next if you were to continue.

In general:
- Find out the size allowed for your poster (4’ x 6’ is the standard size)
- Keep the text spare, do not just repeat your paper.
- Use bullets to emphasize points
- Use a font that can be read from 6 feet away.
- Do not use more than 2 fonts in the poster
- Organize materials in either a columnar or a counterclockwise fashion starting in the upper left corner
- Make section headings distinct from the body of your writing by increasing the font size and using bold type.
- Use color sparingly to emphasize what is important; try to restrict yourself to 2 or 3 colors.

Assessment

Your laboratory instructor (and other students in your lab) will view your poster ask you questions about your work. You will be evaluated on the presentation of the poster and on your answers to the questions you are asked.