GRADUATE RESEARCH POSTER GUIDE:
Design, Style, and Formatting

A guide for designing and formatting your poster for presentation
Goal of Poster Presentations

• The content on your poster will vary based on what sort of project you are presenting. Any discipline can create a poster!
• Posters tell the story of your project visually and concisely, and should complement your oral presentation
  • However, the content should also be able to stand on its own
• The content of your poster will determine which judging category you will be placed in
• See gradschool.cofc.edu for more information
Poster Size & Formatting

- Posters should be created in PowerPoint in LANDSCAPE format set at 54" wide x 40" high.
- Poster display boards measure 72" wide x 48" high
- Titles, authors, and headings should be legible from 5 feet away

70pt for title - bolded
48pt for authors - bolded
36pt for headings - bolded
28pt for text body
22pt for captions

Do not use a font size smaller than 18pt
How to Set up Your Poster Slide

Click to add title

Click to add subtitle

Orientation

Slides sized for:

Custom

Width:

Height:

Number slides from:

1

OK Cancel
What figures do you want to include:
- Pick out appropriate pictures, diagrams, graphs, tables FIRST
- Size them appropriately
- Decide whether these figures can stand on their own or should be included in a section

Arrange sections so the reader can easily follow the story of your poster
- Make the significance of what you have on the poster very clear
Organization & Alignment

- Make sure sections are equally spaced from each other
- Make sure everything is aligned and centered
Pictures & Graphics

• Include what is necessary to tell your narrative
• Avoid putting text over pictures or using pictures as the background of your entire poster
• Crop pictures to show the most important elements while not sacrificing space
• Include white space between figures and body of text
• Ensure any pictures are high enough resolution to handle being blown up to poster size
**Introduction**

Red drum is an important recreational species in the southeastern U.S. [1] whose abundance appears to be declining despite the implementation of increasingly strict regulations [2].

Figure 1. Working up a red drum for length measurements

Microsatellites provide the resolution to differentiate stocked from wild fish throughout their life [7]. By comparing microsatellite markers in sampled adult
Lines and Fills

• Put borders around sections to delineate between sections
• Can use fill colors to delineate between sections and make text pop
  • Be careful to maintain a high level of contrast between font and text
Presenting Data

• Graphs are better than tables
• Diagrams can be more useful than sentences
• Pictures and figures give audience something to focus on while reading/listening
2016 Winner: Sciences, Mathematics, & Business

Examples from Past Entries

Chasing the Salt-Wedge: Assessing the Recreational and Commercial Blue Crab Fisheries of South Carolina
McClellan, K. (MES, College of Charleston), Childress, M.J. (Clemson University), Fowler, A.E. (DNR, College of Charleston)

Introduction
While commercial fishery landings of blue crab in South Carolina have decreased substantially from 2014 to 2015, the number of landings remained relatively constant. This disparity can be attributed in part to the seasonal growth of blue crabs in the salt-wedge of the estuary. The northward migration of blue crabs into the salt-wedge is triggered by the seasonal decrease in salinity. The resulting abundance of crabs in the salt-wedge allows for increased landings by commercial and recreational fishers. This study addresses the following research questions:

Hypotheses
By: Steven, G. Hypothesis 1: At the earlier stages of the season, the crabery, salinity, and temperature conditions favor the growth of blue crabs. By: Joe, M. Hypothesis 2: The crabery, salinity, and temperature conditions favor the growth of blue crabs. By: John, S. Hypothesis 3: The crabery, salinity, and temperature conditions favor the growth of blue crabs.

Research Questions
1. How do changes in water temperature affect the growth of blue crabs?
2. How do changes in salinity affect the growth of blue crabs?
3. How do changes in water temperature and salinity affect the growth of blue crabs?

Methods
Fisheries Independent Survey Methods
- Water samples collected using a CTD probe
- Water temperature and salinity readings recorded
- Blue crab samples collected using a seine net
- Blue crab samples measured for size and sex

Results
Comparing the abundance of blue crabs across different seasons and locations. The data shows a significant increase in blue crab abundance during the colder months, with peak catches in December and January.

Future Work
This study is ongoing and will continue to assess the impact of environmental conditions on blue crab growth and abundance. The findings will be used to inform management strategies to ensure the sustainability of the blue crab fishery.

Acknowledgements
This research was funded by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, College of Charleston, and Clemson University.

Figures and Graphs
- Graphs showing changes in water temperature and salinity over time
- Maps highlighting the distribution of blue crabs across different locations
- Graphs comparing blue crab abundance across different seasons and locations

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
GRADUATE SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, S.C.
Examples from Previous Entries

2016 Winner: Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, & Education

Introduction
The Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) is a digital public history project at the College of Charleston, funded by the Lowcountry Digital Library. Launched in 2014, LDHI serves as an online platform hosting historical exhibits that focus on underrepresented histories of the Lowcountry. LDHI is a digital museum providing wider access to information and stories that are often left out of history books.

LDHI Objectives
- Keep the College of Charleston up to speed with how people digitally engage with historic and cultural information in the digital world.
- Encourage projects that highlight underrepresented race, class, gender, and labor histories within the Lowcountry region.
- Illustrate diverse histories within the Lowcountry through specific historic landscapes and structures.
- Provide GIS partners with guidance and supports for their digital work and implementing digital interpretation strategies.
- Promote dynamic, collaborative, and widely accessible outreach and educational opportunities of digital public history.

Featured Exhibits
"Somebody had to Do It": First Children in School Desegregation
- Examines the history of school desegregation in Charleston and the U.S. South.
- Features oral histories with Black Americans who were the "first" children to integrate public schools in the mid-twentieth century.

Voyage of the Echo: The Trials of an Illegal Transatlantic Slave Ship
- Explores the world of the illegal slave trade by reconstructing the voyage of the slave ship Echo in 1839.
- Utilizes documents from a major public trail to tell the story of a group of enslaved individuals.
- Highlights diverse historical narratives including popular music, poetry, art, folklore, slave literature, and U.S. Civil War.

Keeper of the Gate: Philip Simmons Iron Work in Charleston, South Carolina
- Outlines the history and work of Charleston's award-winning and honors-iron worker, Philip Simmons.
- Provides the cultural and artistic legacy of the Lowcountry.

Broader Implications
Increasing public access to academic information is an ongoing goal across academic fields. LDHI is an important College of Charleston tool to provide the general public as well as local and global educators with better access to the region's history.

LDHI is one of the College of Charleston's tools to provide a wide audience with access to interesting and often untold stories of Lowcountry history and culture, promoting knowledge and understanding of people here and throughout the world.

Graduate Students’ Roles
LDHI projects are developed through collaborative这也 specific projects we have worked on. In this way, we are building public speaking and community outreach skills.