Student Research Conference

2024 Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation Criteria

Guidelines and advice for developing your oral presentation and poster presentation.

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1. Oral Presentations

An oral presentation at an academic conference is a unique form of public speaking that is primarily focused on the communication of scholarly research activities. Unlike other forms of public speech, it requires a deep understanding of a specific subject matter and is often accompanied by visual aids such as slides or charts to support the speaker's points.

The language used is typically formal and precise, reflecting the academic nature of the content. The audience for these presentations is usually peers, academics, or experts in the field, which requires the speaker to present complex ideas in a clear and concise manner. In contrast, other public speeches may aim to entertain, persuade, or inform a general audience and may use more colloquial language and anecdotes.

The success of an academic presentation is measured by the clarity of the information conveyed and the engagement of the audience in the topic, rather than the charisma or persuasiveness of the speaker. Come to the Oral Presentation Workshop run by ANU Academic Skills to get some in-person, real time help!

Here are some **practical guidelines** that will be addressed in more detail in the workshop:

- Ensure that you have a clear message, signpost the structure of your paper in the introductory remarks, provide engaging and simple visual aids, and prepare well!

  - An example of signposting is saying, "In this paper, I will first explain the rationale for my research on X. Next, I will outline my research methodology of X. Then, I will describe my results, and, finally, I will explain why the results of X result in Y and Z conclusions."

- Make a clear statement about the purpose of your paper. E.g. This paper investigates the effects of X on Y and explains its relevance to the field of Z and broader applications outside of the discipline.

- Write your paper in language that someone outside of your discipline could understand. While we expect the audience of the SRC to be university-level education, we want all papers to be accessible.

  - If you have specialist language in your paper, such as 'legalese' in a paper based on a legal case, then be sure to define key terms for your audience.

  - Have a peer read your paper to check for intelligibility and provide you feedback.

- Stick to the time limit for your presentation so that you can receive questions and feedback to help you improve. Practice your presentation and time yourself.

- As a guide, aim to have fewer than 20 words on each PowerPoint slide or Prezi screen.

- Visual aids are **much more memorable** than bullet points.

- Know your content and make eye contact with the audience from time to time.

- Emphasise important points using your tone of voice (professionally).

- Plan for a question time and be prepared to write down questions given so that you can incorporate feedback afterwards and respond to questions on the spot thoroughly.

- In answer to a question, it is alright to say, "That's a great question! Thank you. I don't know, but I will get back to you after my paper".

2. Poster Presentations

An academic poster is a unique type of visual communication tool that is used primarily in the academic and research fields. Differing from other types of posters, an academic poster is designed to present complex research methods and findings in a concise and visually appealing format. It often includes graphs, charts, and other visual aids to help convey the information effectively. The language used in an academic poster is typically formal and precise, reflecting the scholarly nature of the content. An academic poster is targeted at a specialised audience, usually peers or experts in the field. At SRC, the posters will be viewed by the judges, student peers, and other members of the ANU community. The success of an academic poster is measured by its ability to communicate clearly and effectively complex information. The criteria for judging are outlined in section 4 below. A useful guide can be [found here](#). Come to the [Poster Presentations Workshop](#) run by the [ANU Academic Skills](#) team for practical advice!

Here are some **practical guidelines** that will be addressed in more detail in the workshop:

- Your main point needs to be super clear because people may only look at your poster for 2-3 seconds before moving on. Like a good book, you need to hook an audience's attention in that time.

- Your poster should:
    - Have a clear message
    - Balance text and graphics/tables/figures (50/50)
    - Contain blank space between items
    - Be easy to read from 1.5 to 2 metres
    - Not contain chunks of text – use bullet points and limit each to 2-3 lines.

- Plan your poster's layout before you begin inserting information.

- Be sure to include your name and university email address on it.

- Include a reference list/bibliography. This does not need to be the same size font, but it should be readable from 1 metre away.

- Limit your use of colours and avoid red and green text. Black text on a white background or white text on a black background will be easiest to read.

3. Oral Presentation Judging Criteria

Oral Presentations at SRC will be judged on the criteria below, with each criterion being of equal weight and scored on a scale of 1 to 5.

A mark of 5 is the highest and indicates an excellent score for that criterion. With six criteria, the total score is out of 30.

The paper:

1. Contains terminology and explains content in a way that can be understood by a general university audience.
2. Clearly states the research question, problem, or issue that was investigated.
3. Provides relevant context needed to understand the importance of the research topic/issue.
4. Clearly explains the methodology and why it was chosen.
5. Indicates what was found and its significance.
6. Is delivered clearly, concisely, and within the time limit.

4. Poster Presentation Judging Criteria

Poster Presentations at SRC will be judged on the criteria below, with each criterion being of equal weight and scored on a scale of 1 to 5.

A mark of 5 is the highest and indicates an excellent score for that criterion. With six criteria, the total score is out of 30.

The poster:

1. Clearly states the research question, problem, or issue that was investigated.
2. Provides relevant context needed to understand the importance of the research topic/issue.
3. Makes good use of visuals – e.g. images, graphs, etc.
4. Indicates what was found and its significance.
5. Is legible, flows well, and not overcrowded.