

Culverts and Stream Ecology Parts of a Poster Guide

It's now time for you to share your research. Use this guide to organize your research story.

Title and Authors

What are you going to call your project? Have a catchy title that's not too cute. Also, list all of the people who worked on the project, and their affiliation (school).

Introduction

This section tells the reader why you studied what you did – Who cares? Why is stream ecology important? What important research question were you asking? What was the hypothesis? (Use the If, Then... Because structure for the hypothesis) Think back and use notes from Units 1 and 2.

Materials and Methods

This section tells readers – briefly – how you did the project. Use photos and maps if you can. If you used any novel methods, describe those in more detail; otherwise, keep it very brief – just a few bullet points.

Refer to Unit 4.

Results

The results are 'Just the facts'. Start with your graph and your basic statistics. Display those, and say what they are in words. Refer to the Unit 5 Data Presentation exercise.

Discussion and Conclusions

For each result, say what it means with respect to the hypothesis or research question. Was the hypothesis supported? (This is the last part of the Data Interpretation exercise from Unit 5.)

Describe what went right – or wrong – with the study. Were you confident that the evidence (data) supported or did not support the hypothesis? What would you do differently next time? What should next year's class investigate?

Literature Cited

If any reports, web sites, journal articles, or books were used list them here.

Acknowledgments

You should thank any project funders, scientists or experts who helped with the project, labs that analyzed samples, anyone who helped in some way or made the study possible.

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Title and Authors
What are you going to call your project? Have a catchy title that's not too cute. Also, list all of the people who worked on the project, and their affiliation (school).

Title that hints at the underlying issue or question

Your name(s) here
Your school

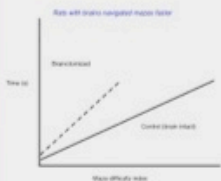
Introduction
This section tells the reader why you studied what you did – Who cares? Why is nitrogen important? What important research question were you asking? What was the hypothesis? (Use the If, Then... Because structure for the hypothesis) Think back and use notes from Units 1 and 2.

Introduction
This is a Microsoft PowerPoint template that has columns widths and font sizes optimized for printing a 36" x 54" poster. Replace the text and figures with your own.

The introduction should tell readers who they should be interested in what you are studying, a brief list of background on the problem you're working on, and your claims and supporting.

Results
The overall layout for this section should be modified from the template to best show all your graphs and other result-related illustrations. You might want a single, large column to accommodate a big graph, or perhaps you could arrange it figure by figure in the center of the poster. Do whatever it takes to make your results graphically show.

Paragraph format is fine, but sometimes a single list of "bullet" points can communicate results more effectively.



Flow with stream channelized across forest

Conclusions
You can, of course, start your conclusions in column #1; your results section is "less light."

Conclusions should not be mere restatements of your results. Instead, you need to guide the reader through what you have concluded from the results. What is the broad significance? "Should anyone be really surprised?" "Why should anyone care?" This section should refer back, explicitly, to the "hanging issues" mentioned in the introduction. If you didn't mention a hanging issue in the introduction, go back and fix that – your poster should have made a good case for why this experiment was worthwhile. A good conclusion will always refer to the literature on the topic – how does your research add to what is already published on the topic?

Materials and Methods
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Materials and methods
Be brief, and opt for photographs or drawings whenever possible to describe equipment, protocol, or experimental design.

Literature cited
Becker, D.J., E.M. Brown, and E.M. Brigham. 1990. Leaf litter collection and decomposition in stream ecology. *Stream Ecology* 10: 1-11.
Becker, D.J. 1995. The evolution of stream ecology. *Pages 67-100 in The Evolution of the Ecology of Streams*. R.E. Mathias and R.E. Lucas. Boston: Academic Press.
Becker, D.J. 2001. Evolution of stream ecology. *Stream Ecology* 11: 1-11.
Becker, D.J. 2005. Stream ecology. *Stream Ecology* 15: 1-11.

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Figure 1: A pictorial guide to your poster