

Western Positive Psychology Association (WPPA)

Brief Guidelines for Poster Design

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WPPA follows the guidelines as outlined by many academic professional associations (American Psychological Association - APA; Association for Psychological Science - APS; regional associations including Western Psychological Association- WPA; American Evaluation Association – AEA; International Positive Psychology Association – IPPA)

Consistent with the WPPA Mission, our goal is to support student-faculty collaboration and research both within and between institutions contributing to the science of positive psychology. We solicit and evaluate abstract submissions based on the quality of the research study including introduction, literature review, methods, participants including recruitment, procedure, analyses, results, discussion, and conclusion(s) with major references cited. As such, all accepted poster presenters and presentations are expected to comply with professional ethics and codes of conduct including Institutional Review Board (IRB) from their governing institution and approval to run their study.

Poster Presentations

Saturday, May 30, 2026

7:00-8:15am 🖼️ Hall 2nd Floor — Poster Set Up & Introduction

Early Saturday, all participants will set up their posters on easels provided by the conference starting at 7am. Please bring copies of your handouts or supplemental information when you put up your poster and do remember to bring extra copies to share during the poster session scheduled from 5-6 pm. We will provide the mounting boards and pushpins.

The purpose of the early morning poster set up is to permit conference attendees to view the posters during the day and give the first author(s) the opportunity to meet the WPPA Conference Poster Award Committee (two members).

Each poster will be assigned a poster/posterboard number and a ten (10) minute appointment time during Saturday to visit with our Award Committee about your research. First, Second, and Third place Poster Award Certificates along with a cash prize for each will be presented at the Conference.

WPPA 2026 Poster Session

The WPPA 2026 poster session is scheduled for one hour (60 minutes) on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 5-6 pm during the Closing Wine & Cheese Celebration - Meet the Authors & Poster Awards.

Poster Guidelines

Poster Size

The poster easels provided will accommodate large standard scientific posters. While major conferences (APA, WPA, APS, SPSP and others) often feature the largest poster presentation boards (4 by 8 feet), our CGU easels are smaller but will easily accommodate standard scientific poster sizes: A0 – 33.1” wide by 45.8” high (84.1cm x 118.9cm) in either landscape or portrait orientation. It is also acceptable to create posters that are 36” x 56-60” (91.5cm x 152.4 cm).

WPPA does not mandate a size, material, or format, but many universities and commercial retail printers such as FedEx Office and online printing services are able to produce excellent professional posters of varying sizes.

Our CGU easels are artists’ easels thus posters 36 in. high by 56 in. or 60 in. are amenable poster sizes. Foam core mounted or poster board backing are essential for presentation.

To create your research in poster format using Power Point or Keynote, start by specifying page setup size of 18 inches (height) and 26-30 inches wide. For printing, simply request that the printer to double the page size at printing to create a poster of 36 inches by 52 (to 60) inches wide.

Poster Layout

Many people use PowerPoint or Keynote to design a poster. Some departments and universities have scientific poster templates to use and some also require that you use the official logo for your institution or school, but beyond these specifics, academic research poster the design offers many creative opportunities to share your work with others – adding you own style and highlighting your main findings with your own pizzazz.

Please remember to include:

- Title and Authors
- Academic Affiliation – Each Author
- Abstract
- Literature Review or Theoretical Background
- Methods (Participants, Procedures, Materials)
- Results (Data – Tables, Carts, Images)
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References

Role Models of poster presentations at Professional Conferences

If you are new to WPPA or presenting your research in a poster format for the first time at a professional conference, you can gather some ideas and role models from our previous WPPA conference photo galleries WPPA 2024, UNM

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cXuKf9iFNtw4dJkq8>; WPPA Claremont 2020 poster session <https://photos.app.goo.gl/SHEXMmB9dUiEqLRVA>, WPPA CSU-Sacramento 2025, Friday, <https://photos.app.goo.gl/n7NsjnEZHPc266xp9> & Saturday <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qd7EaVuBNrDq1FHJ7>, as well as WPA’s annual photo galleries 2014-2025 <https://westernpsych.org/gallery/> .

Gather some ideas from other conference presenters and poster sessions.

Also, please look at recommendations from other professional associations:

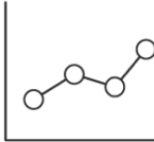
Western Psychological Association (WPA) offers resources and role model poster suggestions:

<https://westernpsych.org/poster-design/>

Association for Psychological Science (APS) offers several guidelines and a simple format <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/conventions/2024-aps-annual-convention/call-for-submissions/poster-rules-and-guidelines>

Association for Psychological Science – Sample Poster

Title of Poster Presentation
Author Name and Affiliation

<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p> Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et justo odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetur adipiscing elit, sed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Methodology</p> <p> Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et justo odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p> Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et justo odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Theoretical Background</p> <p> Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et justo odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Results</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">References</p> <p> Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et justo odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetur adipiscing elit, sed</p>

And a quick google search will bring you several websites offer free templates including:
<https://colinpurrington.com/tips/poster-design/>

And APA has a webpage devoted to poster design “Rethinking the Science Poster”
<https://convention.apa.org/blog/rethinking-the-science-poster>

Lynn University has a very straightforward Academic Poster Template (above) with a Lynn Librarian on duty for a Chat.

https://lynn-library.libguides.com/Academic_Posters

Academic Poster Template

PROJECT TITLE HERE: WITH SUBTITLE (72 pt)
 Your Name Here, Lynn University (48 pt)

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Abstract (40 pt)</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert abstract here, this is a text box with 28 point font</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Methods</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert methods here</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Discussion</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert discussion here</p>
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Introduction</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert introduction here</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Results</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert results here, often including figures and tables</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 8pt; margin-top: 5px;">Table 1 Title of the Figure in Italics and in Title Case</p> <p style="font-size: 8pt; margin-top: 5px;">Note: Not all tables require a note, any information included here must refer to this specific table (or figure). From [or Adapted from] "Title of article," by D.K. Smith and C.F. Jones, 2022, <i>Home of the Journal</i>, 2(1), p. 22. https://doi.org/10.1234/56789. Copyright by the [copyright holder name]. Reprinted with permission [include when permission is necessary] or in the public domain.</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Conclusions</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert conclusion here</p>
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Research Question</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert research question here</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">References</div> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">Insert APA formatted references here see the Lynn APA Citation Help page for more information.</p>	

And an array of poster templates for free download are found at:

https://www.posternerd.com/sciposters-templates?srsltid=AfmBOorrXyVlPwYnD_WKQDvIaUWiuP8lYOqBJFukJLK3lSo9691m_yz

Good luck and enjoy the process. Remember you are telling your research study story in a visual medium. Your charts and tables are the centerpieces. Many show their MAIN

findings as the centerpiece of your poster, but feel free to supplement with samples of the measures you used, photos of equipment, and/or participants who have granted image use permission in their “Informed Consent” signed document.

If you would like to visit photos of past WPPA conference event photography, please visit WPPA’s (<https://wppanetwork.org/events/past/>) from 2024, 2020 (we were virtual in 2021, 2022, & 2023). Additional photo galleries are available at <https://westernpsych.org/gallery/> Fun fact, these photos may have been taken by one of our behind-the-scenes WPPA co-founders and earliest members. :)

Gallery

View each Gallery by clicking on the photo year you would like to see:



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2.26.2025