

THE THREE Ps OF PRESENTING A POSTER

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The three Ps of presenting a poster are Prepare, Practice and Present. When presenting, remember that you are the expert on your research. People with a great deal more experience will be asking questions, not to test you, but out of genuine interest. It is important to know the project so that you can field questions without losing confidence.

Prepare

- Sum up your poster's key points and conclusions in a few sentences.
- Give extra thought to the parts of your poster that will be the most challenging to explain.
- Anticipate questions and how you will answer them.
- Prepare 5-minute and 10-minute versions of your talk.

Try presenting your talk to a friend who does not know your research. Pay attention to the questions your friend asks.

Practice

Know your work, inside and out, forward and backward.

- Practice starting your talk from different sections of your poster.
- Practice your talk without looking at the poster.
- Give your talk to friends to see what questions they may ask.

Present

- Greet people with a smile and show your enthusiasm for your work.
- Find out why they are interested in your poster before you start talking.
- Do not stand in front of your poster where you might block people's view.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Use a pointer or your hands to refer to particular parts of the poster.
- Spend extra time explaining the figures and tables.
- Use a transition sentence to move to the next section.
- If people approach your poster after you have begun your talk, welcome them and identify where you are in the talk.
- Check your audience's understanding of the more complex concepts.
- Thank people for listening to your talk.
- Produce a supplemental handout.

Adapted from:

<http://biology.lsa.umich.edu/research/labs/ktooney/file/good11.html>

http://www.asp.org/education/howto_onPosters.html

<http://edu.medsci.uu.se/occmed/poster/preparations/atconf.htm>

<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/present.html>