



# ***Guidelines for Preparing a Paper from a Poster Presentation***

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*For the Proceedings of the Association for  
Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE)*

This document provides presenters of **posters** with guidelines to assist in the preparation of their poster, and extended abstract or short paper for inclusion in the ABLE workshop/conference proceedings, *Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching*. Although it is not possible to provide guidelines for every usage, this document attempts to address the most common questions. For specific examples of style and usage, authors should consult, *very* closely, the most recent proceedings volume. **Presenters of posters may submit their poster file (pdf or ppt) and either an extended abstract (up to two pages with tables and/or figures) or a short (≤10 page) paper. In the absence of a poster submission, the poster abstract that was printed in the conference program will be published in an abstracts only section at the end of the Proceedings.**

## **Submission Instructions**

Your poster (and manuscript) are due to the Proceedings Editor *no later than **October 1st immediately following the annual conference***. (Of course, your submission is very welcome any time before that date!) All materials must be submitted electronically via the ABLE poster submission website. See the pull-down menu under Proceedings, Author Guidelines, and click on Manuscript Submission.

### **Please submit the following:**

- **One electronic copy** of your poster sent as an uploaded file (in pdf file format) on the Manuscript Submission webpage found on the ABLE website. Please insert the ABLE logo ([http://www.ableweb.org/images/ABLE\\_leaf.jpg](http://www.ableweb.org/images/ABLE_leaf.jpg)) in a corner of your poster before submitting.
- **One electronic copy** of your complete manuscript, either an extended abstract or a short paper, (following the guidelines below), sent as an uploaded file (Microsoft Word; PC or Mac versions) on the Manuscript Submission webpage found on the ABLE website.
- **One electronic copy** of each Figure, Photograph and Illustration that is embedded in your complete manuscript (following the guidelines below), uploaded (Figures, Photographs and Illustrations as jpg, tif, psd, ai, pdf, or png files) on the Manuscript Submission webpage found on the ABLE website. Your image files may only be in these six formats. Please do not submit images in other formats. Tables should be created in MS Word in your manuscript and are not needed as separate documents.

- Signed **ABLE Copyright Form** from the submitting author. The submitting author represents all the authors of the manuscript and must submit a copyright form listing all the authors and the copyright owner. Copyright forms are available for download from the ABLE web site. The Copyright Form is a fill-able pdf document. Type the names of all the authors, type the name of the copyright owner(s), print a copy and sign on behalf of all the authors, scan and create a new pdf, and upload the scanned Copyright Form pdf at the ABLE Proceedings Manuscript Submission Webpage when you submit your poster.
- Please enter all the information requested in the on-line Manuscript Submission webpage. Some of this information will be redundant with the poster and the Title Page content of your manuscript (see Format of Poster Papers below) but is needed by our website managers to efficiently catalog your manuscript once the Proceedings are “published” on our website. The information you provide on the on-line Manuscript Submission webpage also will be used to automatically create a cover page for your poster.

### Format of Poster Papers

**If you choose to submit an extended abstract**, it may be up to two pages and may include, where appropriate, figures, tables, and literature cited. Include any essential methodological information (recipes, sources of materials, construction of equipment) directly in the abstract.

**If you chose to submit a short paper** (many ABLE members have indicated the value of having poster papers included in the proceedings), the paper should be *no more than 10 pages in length*.

For short papers, use sections (in the following order): **Title Page**, **Introduction**, **Student Outline**, **Notes for the Instructor**, **Acknowledgments**, **Literature Cited**, and **About the Author** (a brief biographical sketch for each author), *if appropriate*. Please see the latest ABLE Proceedings Volume for examples.

The Title Page should include a **title** (20-point bold Times New Roman, align left), **name** (14-point bold Times New Roman, align left), **mailing address** and **email address** of each author (12-point Times New Roman, align left), an **abstract** written as a single paragraph (not to exceed 100 words, in 10-point Times New Roman, left aligned), **keywords** (1-3), and a **running head** (condensed title - that the editor will place at the top of every other page) both in 10-point Times New Roman and aligned left.

### Manuscript Preparation

#### Word processor setup

Base font: 12-point Times New Roman

Line space: Single

Margins: 1.25” top; 1.0” bottom; 0.75” sides

Justification: Full

Pagination: Remove all page numbers from the manuscript.

### Headings

In general use no more than three **levels of organization**: primary headings (centered and bold in 14-point Times New Roman font), secondary headings (left-hand margin and bold 12-point), and tertiary headings (left-hand margin and in italic 12-point). It is not necessary to have secondary headings unless complexity of the text calls for them; tertiary headings may be used directly under primary headings if they introduce limited material.

### Body or paragraph

Indent the first line of each paragraph 1/2 inch (0.50"). Use full justification and do not break words at the right-hand margin anywhere in the manuscript. (This includes hyphenated words as well as words divided between syllables.) Give the scientific and colloquial names the first time a plant or animal is mentioned. Scientific names should appear in *italics* and not be underlined.

Spelling should follow American English (*e.g.*, behavior, center, color, liter, pipet). For general matters of spelling use *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*; if two or more spellings of a word are given, the first listed is the one preferred (with the exception of formulae and appendices).

Use 12-point Times New Roman as the base font. All portions of the manuscript should be **single-spaced**, including text, titles of tables, figure legends, literature cited, and appendices. Insert a single space before and after a primary heading. Insert a single space before secondary and tertiary headings.

### Tables

When possible, use the TABLE feature in MS Word to create your tables. Please do NOT use spaces to align the columns of your table. Identify each table with a bold numeric reference and title, centered at the top of the table (see example below). When possible, the table should be centered within the page.

**Table 6.** Number of aquatic insects in stream sample.

Pollution-intolerant	Intermediate	Pollution-tolerant
___ caddisfly larvae	___ beetle larvae	___ blackfly larvae
___ dobsonfly larvae	___ crane flies	___ midge larvae
___ mayfly larvae	___ damselflies	
___ stonefly larvae	___ dragonflies	

### Graphics

Embed each graphic in your document as a graphic file. Include a centered figure legend below the graphic (using narrower margins on both sides), as shown in the example below.

**Figure 1.** Typical results for simulated growth of catfish as a function of protein content of the diet. Growth was simulated in tanks with temperature set at 25°C, oxygen set at 10 mg/liter, and with a feeding rate which was varied to match the feed consumption rate of the fish.

In addition to embedding graphics files in your manuscript, each Figure, Photograph and Illustration file must be uploaded (Figures, Photographs and Illustrations as jpg, tif, psd, ai, pdf, or png files) on the Manuscript Submission webpage found on the ABLE website. Your image files may only be in these six formats. Please do not submit images in other formats. Tables should be created in MS Word in your manuscript and are not needed as separate documents.

### **Documentation and Literature Cited**

When citing references in the text, use the form “Jones (1981)” if the author's name is part of the sentence and “(Jones, 1981)” if it is not. If there are more than two authors use the form “Barnes *et al.* (1984)”; however, cite all names in the Literature Cited. Provide multiple citations in alphabetical order; for example, Ashe (1967), Ball (1945), and Cook (1987).

Provide page number(s) for material that is quoted directly from a source. For example: Haldane (1927:21) once wrote “comparative anatomy is largely the story of the struggle to increase surface in proportion to volume.”

To simplify the retrieval of cited references by others do not use journal abbreviations in the Literature Cited section. Sample literature citations follow. Additional references and further readings should be cited directly within the body of the text or appear in an appendix. Pay particular note of the use of punctuation and capital letters in the samples below; periods that follow name(s), year, and title are followed by two blank spaces. In all book citations include the total number of pages.

Bold, H. C., and J. W. La Claire. 1987. *The plant kingdom*. Fifth edition. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 309 pages.

Carlisle, D. B., and F. Knowles. 1959. Colour change. (Chapter 3). Pages 40–69, in *Endocrine control in crustaceans*. Cambridge University Press, 119 pages.

Slatis, H. M., M. B. Katznelson, and B. Bonne-Tamir. 1976. The inheritance of fingerprint patterns. *American Journal of Human Genetics*, 28: 280–289.

Sunderland, N., and M. Roberts. 1977. New approach to pollen culture. *Nature*, 270: 236–238.

### **Copyright**

The manuscript must be accompanied by letters of permission from copyright holders in order to use any copyrighted material.

### **Style and Usage**

Do not use underlining anywhere in the text; scientific names should be in italics. Hyphenate compounds used as adjectives (3-year-old male, 10-ml pipet, 3-minute intervals). Use serial commas, *including* that preceding the conjunction (left, right, and center; *not*: left, right and center). Leave one space after punctuation that ends sentences (periods, question marks, etc.) and only one space after colons, semicolons, commas, and other internal punctuation marks.

### **Numbers and Mathematics**

Use decimals rather than fractions, except in equations. Decimals not preceded by a whole number should always be preceded by a zero (0.75).

Use numerals for numbers greater than nine except when starting a sentence (associated abbreviation or symbol should be spelled out as well: “Eleven grams,” but “About 11 g”; “Fifteen percent,” but “More than 15%”).

Spell out numbers one through nine *except* when used with units of measure or time (6 mm, 3 days, 4 years, but five students, seven observations), or in a series that includes at least one number greater than nine (1 syringe, 3 beakers, and 25 test tubes). Use commas in numbers of four digits or more (1,000) except in catalog numbers.

In giving ranges, use “from 10.1 to 31.0 mm,” but “the range is 10.1–31.0 mm” (i.e., use “to” when it is preceded by “from”).

Specify currency as U.S. or Canadian dollars (\$40 US, \$48 CDN).

### Units of Measure

Use the metric system for all measures (20 kg, 6 g, 30 km). A list of accepted abbreviations that can be used in text, tables, and figures of manuscript, without explanation or punctuation, follows. Other measures should be spelled out (e.g., dozen, day, inch, liter, second, minute, hour, month, week, year).

°C	degrees Celsius	m	meter	mm	millimeter
cm	centimeter	µg	microgram	M	molar
g	gram	µL	microliter	'	magnification
kg	kilogram	mL	milliliter	nm	nanometer
km	kilometer	mg	milligram		

### Miscellaneous

- Italicize all latin words and abbreviations, except those commonly used (e.g., i.e., et al.).
- Periods and commas should be placed within closing quotation marks. A semicolon and colon should be placed outside closing quotation marks.

Last Revised: 18 February 2012