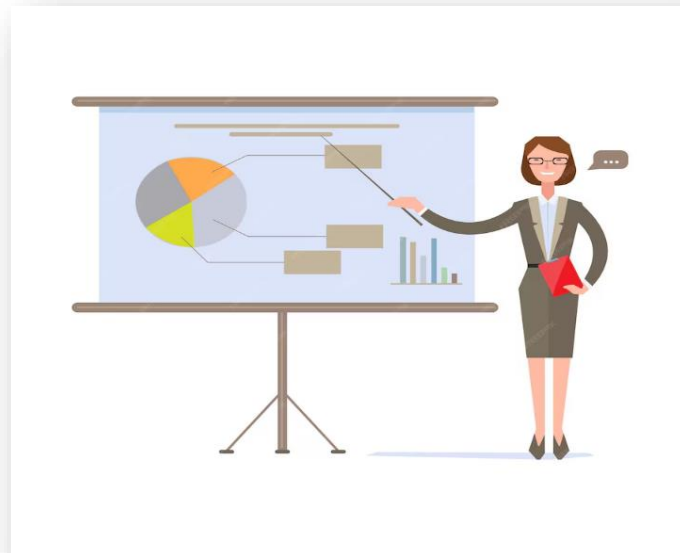


Chapter VI

Presentation of a manuscript (written work)



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1. Introduction

Obtaining a master's or doctoral degree is a significant achievement in a researcher's life, representing the culmination of years of research, analysis, and in-depth study. However, the defense is the most exciting and challenging part of this long journey. When researchers present their theses for defense, they must prepare thoroughly for this critical stage, as the defense committee will test and challenge them. In this article, we will discuss how researchers can prepare for the defense of their master's or doctoral theses by providing tips and guidelines that will help them prepare effectively.

What is defense?

2. A defense

The act of presenting an intellectual work to obtain a degree (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.) before a jury responsible for assessing its merit and capable of awarding the degree. It is characterized by:

- ✓ It is not a simple summary or a reading of the completed work.
- ✓ It does not aim to cover everything in the manuscript.
- ✓ It does not fully develop all arguments and analyses.
- ✓ It does convey key scientific findings and reasoning.
- ✓ It must persuade the audience and jury.
- ✓ It should be scientifically engaging and capture attention.

1. The oral presentation consists of three parts

To successfully defend your dissertation, it is essential to structure your presentation correctly. With this in mind, it is in your best interest to break it down to:

a. Introduction

The student must state the title of their work and introduce their topic clearly and initially, recalling the underlying purpose, objective, and problem of their research; and then outline the outline of their presentation.

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b. Development or discussion

The student must present the methods of their work and the results obtained, interpret them, and argue for them.

c. Conclusion

The presenter concludes their work by presenting the general idea of their work, summarizing their results, and providing perspectives on their work. They conclude with a few words: Thank you for your attention.

This can be summed up in the following table:

Table : The oral presentation parts

Section	Content to Present
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announce the title of your work• Clearly introduce the research topic• State the research problem, objectives, and rationale• Present the structure of your presentation
Development or discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present your methodology• Share and interpret your results• Provide supporting arguments and analysis
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarize the main findings and overall idea of your work• Highlight future research perspectives• Conclude with a polite remark:

2. Some tips for giving a good presentation:

- ❖ Speak clearly and slowly.

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❖ Texts, images, tables, and curves related to the research work in general.

❖ **Body Language and Posture**

Non-verbal communication plays a key role in audience engagement. Maintain eye contact, stand confidently, avoid crossing your arms, and use open body language to appear approachable and credible.

❖ **Dealing with Anxiety or Stress**

Feeling nervous is normal. To manage it, rehearse several times before the actual presentation, practice deep breathing, and focus on conveying your message clearly rather than aiming for perfection.

❖ **Time Management During the Presentation**

Time management is essential for a successful presentation. The presenter must respect the allotted time (usually 15 to 20 minutes) by rehearsing in advance and ensuring a balanced distribution of time between the introduction, development, and conclusion.


3. Scientific poster

A scientific poster is a presentation or display that allows you to present scientific work to other researchers or doctoral students at scientific meetings or conferences. Its purpose is to bring together, on a single page, all the information about the study being presented.

3.1. Poster objectives

The purpose of the poster is to present your research work to uninitiated readers; it's a kind of scientific business card. You need to put yourself in the shoes of the person who will read it:

1. The problem and vocabulary must, therefore, be simple.
2. The poster must attract attention; it's a visual communication tool.
3. The poster serves to convey a message: it's to inform.
4. The poster must make the reader want to delve deeper into the subject: it's to convince.
5. The poster must be educational, present a logical sequence, and not be too dense.

 **Important:** the poster must be self-contained, meaning it can be understood even if you're not there to explain it.

5.2 Basic steps to prepare a poster

➤ Step 1

Define the main theme: You must identify the poster's main message, the key idea. This will be the main theme to keep in mind throughout the preparation process. Each part of the poster must relate to this theme.

➤ Step 2

Choose the medium: An A0-sized PowerPoint slide (95 cm wide – 105 cm high) in portrait or landscape mode.

➤ Step 3

Choose the structure: This involves choosing the reading direction, natural or explicit, of the poster.

➤ Step 4

Construct the frames: Each frame develops a specific idea related to the topic, for example:

- ✓ summary;
- ✓ Relevant introduction posing a scientific problem;
- ✓ Materials and methods;
- ✓ results;
- ✓ analysis of results;
- ✓ Conclusion

5.3. Poster Composition

The poster should be organized according to a sectional structure so that it can be read quickly. The poster should be read in 5 minutes and should contain an average of 500 to 1,000 words maximum. The different sections should be included in your poster.

- **Title**

The choice of title is strategic: it must capture the interest of conference attendees who consult the program titles or pass by the poster. The title must be "catchy and evocative," sufficiently

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explicit (to differentiate it from other posters). It should ideally summarize the objective and resources, and contain the poster's essential message.

- **Authors and Affiliations**

Include the lead author, followed by those who contributed to the research, as well as their affiliated institution(s). The lead author's contact information (at least their email address) must be included.

- **Introduction**

The introduction generally contains a summary of the literature review (very brief, one to two sentences) that you conducted previously and outlines the objective of the study.

- **Materials and Methods**

here you will briefly describe the equipment and procedures, without all the technical details reserved for the article, but perhaps with an illustration;

- **Results**

this is generally the largest section, where you explain whether the experiment was successful and present the quantitative and qualitative results using graphs.

- **The conclusion**

this is a discreet summary of the results, highlighting their importance and a reminder of the introduction. The poster may also contain a section:

- ❖ Acknowledgments: study funders, participants, etc.
- ❖ Bibliographic references.

5.4. Designing the Poster Format

To create the poster layout, you can use PowerPoint, adapting the slide format to the desired poster format. You can also use other desktop publishing software (Adobe InDesign, Corel Draw, etc.). You must determine:

5.4.1. Poster format and style

The format is often imposed and specifies:

- the poster's orientation, portrait or landscape. Portrait format is generally indicated

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- The dimensions: these vary; standard dimensions often correspond to 80 x 120 cm (A0 format).

❖ Formatting

To make it easier to read, it's recommended to divide the page into columns (2 or 3 columns) (title, results, conclusion). To make it easier to distinguish between sections, each section can be presented in boxes, leaving sufficient margins (empty space) between each section.

❖ Font and Type Size

For optimal readability, use:

- 84 points for the title.
- 36 points for headings.
- 24 points for the text.

Regarding layout, a 2.5 cm margin around the poster helps maintain a neat and balanced presentation. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure that visual cues, such as arrows and symbols, remain consistent.

❖ Colors

Use a maximum of two to three main colors, preferably pastels. Therefore, favor contrasting colors between the text and the background, for example, dark text on a light background.

❖ Illustrations

Illustrations (tables, graphs, diagrams) must be contained: a title, numbered reference them in the text

A poster must be

- ✓ Attractive: to capture attention: The title must attract the reader, and the information must be as graphic as possible.
- ✓ Structured: to facilitate reading: The reader must be guided through their reading. To do this:
- ✓ Identify the different parts of the poster (by titles, section numbers, colors, etc.).
- ✓ Or adopt a natural or explicit direction of movement through the poster.
- ✓ Concise: to focus communication on the message:

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- ✓ The text must be clear and precise, the sentences short, and the font appropriate (not in capital letters, etc.).
- ✓ White spaces are important. Ideally, a mix of 30% text, 40% illustrations, and 30% empty space is recommended. Avoid overusing colors, which impair readability.

5.4.2. Presenting the Poster

Although not mandatory, presenting your poster orally is appreciated. The purpose of the presentation is to guide the audience through the poster, which should illustrate the presentation's points without reading the text. Preparing a 2–3-minute oral presentation is recommended. The presentation should be simple, using short sentences, but also lively.

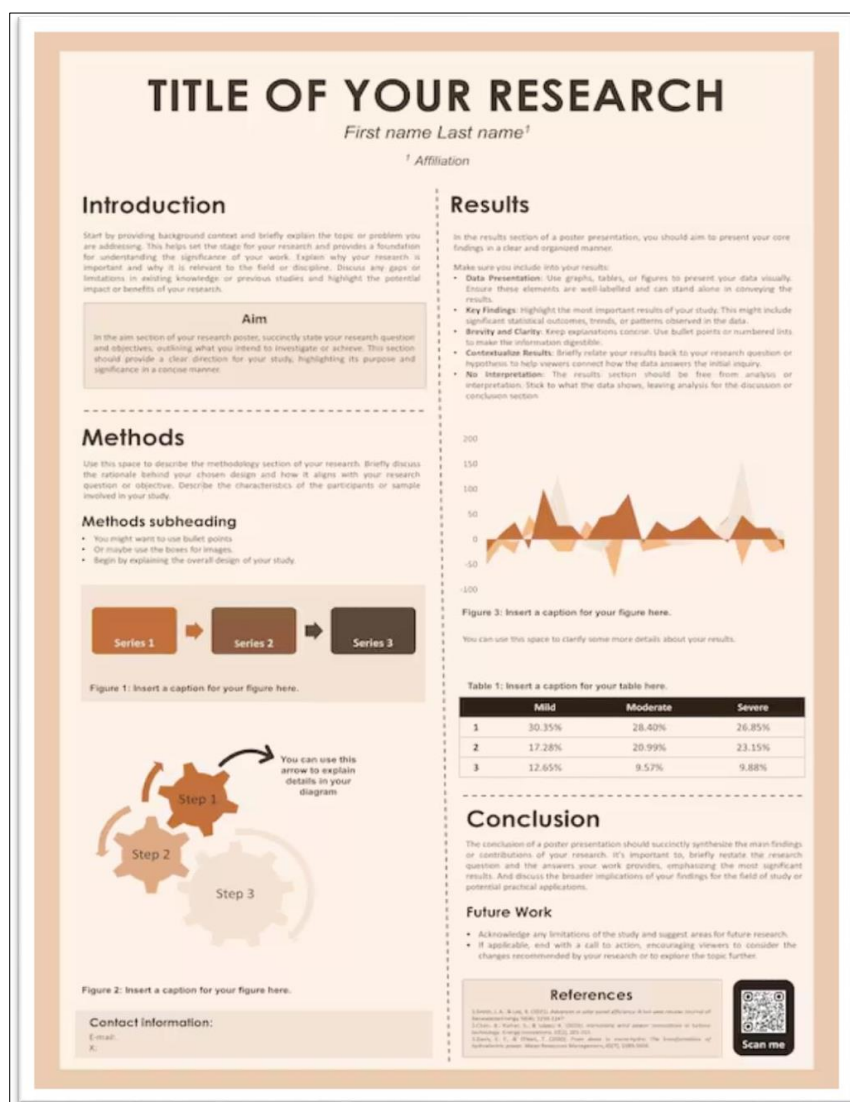


Figure 1: the general shape of the scientific poster (and distribution of its basic elements)

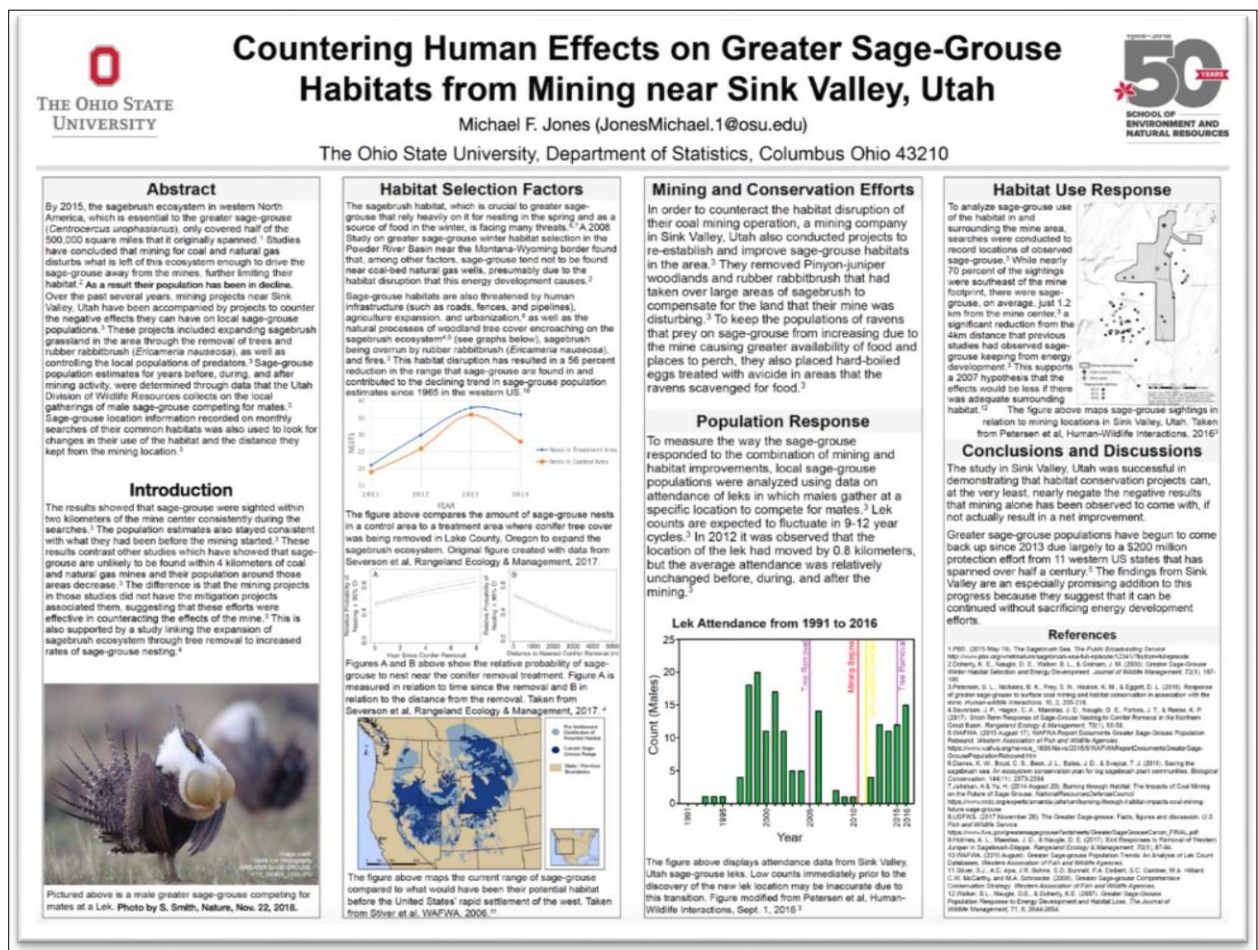


Figure 2: Example of a scientific poster (landscape form) of scientific poste