Poster Guidelines (completed as a team – 25% of your grade)

Description and objective

Each team will design a poster outlining their research project to present at the Student Academic Conference (SAC) on April 16, 2020. The SAC presentation will be ungraded – as class will already be over – but it is still a great way to engage and is something to put on your resume. In addition, you will complete a 12-15 minute in-class presentation on the main highlights from your poster on the last day of class (January 22).

Content:

In the poster you will provide background information, clearly state the objectives of your project, describe what we know on your chosen topic, how we know this information, and why it's interesting to fellow students and ecologists, and explore potential future directions. Be sure to have cited in-text a minimum of **10 peer-reviewed articles** (Wikipedia does not count!). As discussed in class, you will follow instructions for the new poster idea of less is more – see the references section below. In addition some of the information provided by Purrington's *Advice on designing scientific posters* available at http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm may still be useful. In addition, Pechenik's (2013) suggestions from chapter 12 should prove valuable. Remember that the goal of a poster is not to squish in as much information as possible – you want to tell a story in a way that attracts people to want to look at your poster, rather than be scared off by information overload and cluttered disarray! Let's see how well the alternative poster format does that!

Delivery:

Leave us in awe of your tropical ecology poster and presentation of it! To do this, provide a clear, logical and well-structured narrative in your poster that flows well. Respect the time limits and be enthusiastic in your delivery of your presentation about the poster in class. You might find it helpful to create PowerPoint slides that 'zoom-in' to relevant areas of your poster to help facilitate your presentation. Each team member should be an equal contributor to your oral presentation!

References:

a. https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/06/11/729314248/to-save-the-science-poster-researchers-want-to-kill-it-and-start-over

b. **How to create a better research poster in less time (including templates)** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RwJbhkCA58

Posters should be 36" wide and 24" high. See the template posted on eClass. The SAC webpage https://www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/student/credit/sac, also has templates for posters on it that you may also find helpful but they don't follow the new template!

You will have to submit your final poster to TLS a minimum of 3 business days prior to the SAC and it will cost you a small amount of money to print it. For your in-class presentation of your poster you can just project a virtual copy of your poster using PowerPoint, and as mentioned above you can also create a PowerPoint presentation that is based on your poster to help zoom in to the key elements of it. However, your presentation should not have additional information not already contained within the poster (as otherwise – why isn't it already in your poster?). Be sure to upload a copy of your final poster to eClass prior to the deadline.

	Evaluative Rubric – Poster Content, Design, and Delivery				Total
Content and Organization of Ideas	Title is clear and representative of the purpose or key finding of the study. Free of jargon and not overly lengthy: Alluring. Objective(s) clearly stated and easy to locate, show how the research questions/hypotheses related to the objective(s) are investigated. Appropriate information in well-organized sections as appropriate based on the new style of poster you are completing! You should include information as outlined in the template. Make sure that any information that should be included – if it isn't included directly on your poster – then make sure we can find it at the location your QR code links to.				
	Unacceptable (0-4)	**Fair (5-6)**	**Good (7-8)**	**Excellent (9-10)**	
	Poor content quality, missing key information about most topics. Lacks grasp of information and appears thrown together. No connectivity between sections.	Content missing some key information (e.g., missing sections of results; tables and figures without supporting text) or information placed in the wrong section. Some areas are covered well but other areas have not been well addressed. Poor connectivity between sections (e.g., new ideas in results) or repetition between sections.	Good content. For most part complete, however there is room for adding some key information in at least one of the main areas of focus (e.g., introductory context is not well developed). Room for improvement in connectivity between sections.	Outstanding content. Appears to be significant background work (review) easy to follow, and interesting. Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of topic. Excellent connectivity (e.g., everything in introduction matches up with all other sections). Table and figures are self-sufficient.	
	Unacceptable (0-4)	**Fair (5-6)**	**Good (7-8)**	**Excellent (9-10)**	
Poster Design	Poster is visually unappealing, little thought in designing it, poster very busy and no use of pictures/figure. Font is too large or small, too much text – cluttered, hard to read (e.g., bad colour scheme). Lots of typos.	Content is poorly organized, poster choppy, not well thought out, little use of pictures/figures (and where present are poor resolution), colour etc. font size often okay but also sometimes too small or big. Some badly cluttered information on poster, several typos.	Content is generally well organized. Some use of lists/bullets, but not consistently, generally the poster looks good but there is room for improvement. Good use of pictures (including good resolution) and figures to enhance poster information. Poster uses good font size, some room for improvement (e.g., some sections with excessive text), only a few typos.	Professional appearance. Content well organized: good use of titles and headings, bulleted lists as appropriate, colour, poster not too busy. Excellent use of (good resolution) pictures and figures to enhance poster information. Poster concise, uncluttered, easy to read, appropriate font size, only 1-2 typos and grammatical errors.	
	Unacceptable (0-1)	**Fair (2-3)**	**Good (3.5-4.4)**	**Excellent (4.5-5)**	
Presentation	Students not prepared. Can't answer questions.	Limited enthusiasm (e.g., little eye contact, poor voice projection, poor tone and style). Students prepared but can't answer questions very well. Apathetic.	Good enthusiasm and engagement with audience (e.g., good eye contact, voice projection, and tone and style). Students well prepared and can answer questions relatively well.	Excellent enthusiasm and engagement with audience – everyone wants to come hear what you say because of your passion. Very effective at responding to questions and generating further ones. Integrating knowledge well.	
				Total	/25