**2017 Penn State Eastern Regional**

**Undergraduate Research Symposium**

Poster Judging Categories

 **Arts and Humanities** (including Behavioral Science such as Business Studies and Economics)

 **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Student exhibits may be entered in only one category, which should be denoted in the abstract.

Poster Judging Criteria

The purpose of a poster exhibit is to convey to a wide audience a research project's significance to scholars in the field and its potential significance to the general public. Exhibits will be judged on their quality in three areas:

**1) Content**

The exhibit must include:

 Student name (or names, if more than one student is presenting the exhibit)

 Collaborators, adviser(s), and department(s)

 A short title of the exhibit

 Funding sources (if applicable)

 Objectives

 Significance to the field

 Significance to society in general

 Methods

 Results, interpretation of results and conclusions, and directions for future research if the project is completed. “Other” creative exhibits must include discussion of meaning and/or reflections on the body of work exhibited.

**2) Display**

*The core of each exhibit is a poster with text and graphics intended for a general audience. Use of laptop computers is not permitted as part of the exhibit.*

 Poster should attract attention and convey important information about the project.

 Language should be simple and descriptions brief. Excessive jargon should be avoided; necessary technical terms should be defined.

 Spelling and grammar must be correct.

 Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs should be simple, well organized, and carefully chosen when used to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience.

* Poster should not exceed 3.5 feet in width and 4 feet in height (recommendation 36” x 42”)

**3) Oral Presentation**

 Each student should prepare to describe and discuss his or her exhibit, tailored specifically to make the work understandable to a non-expert audience.

 Description should be clear and concise, and should include the major points presented on the poster.

 Presentation must not exceed 10 minutes; judges will be instructed to observe this time limit. Note: A

videotape or demonstration cannot be submitted for the discussion.

 In cases where the student worked with collaborators, including his or her adviser, the presentation should clearly describe the student's role in the overall project.

**4) Thoroughness**

* All in all, does the project show creativity?
* Are there indications of original, critical thought?
* Does this project consider “all” the relevance points, issues related to the topic in hand?

**1) Content** - Assign each individual lettered item (a through h below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) Is the title specific and informative and all collaborators acknowledged?

b) Have all necessary sources been cited in the text and referenced?

c) Is the hypothesis/objective stated clearly and concisely?

d) Is the significance to the field and to society in general clearly stated?

e) If applicable, does the work adhere to the “Process of Science” in its experimental design, implementation, and data analysis?

f) Has the data and results from the data been interpreted correctly?

g) Does the discussion/conclusion section address the major implications of the findings?

h) Is there a statement describing a “direction for future research”?

**Total Score for Content (add the scores for items a-h)**

**2) Display -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) Does the exhibit attract attention and convey important information about the project?

b) Is the text written in a clear and concise manner, without spelling and grammatical errors?

c) Are technical terms clearly defined?

d) Are photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs well organized, understandable, and carefully chosen to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience?

**Total Score for Display (add the scores for items a-d)**

**3) Oral Presentation -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) Was the presenter(s) self-confident, professional, and thoroughly knowledgeable about the research and information being presented?

b) Is the presentation understandable to a non-expert audience?

c) Were the major points of the research discussed in the oral presentation?

d) Did the student(s) clearly describe his/her/their role in the overall project and gave credit to any collaborators?

**Total Score for Oral Presentation (add the scores for items a-d)**

**TOTAL SCORE**

**4) Thoroughness -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) All in all, does the project show creativity?

b) Are there indications of original, critical thought?

c) Does this project consider “all” the relevance points, issues related to the topic in hand?

**Total Score for Thoroughness (add the scores for items a-c)**

**TOTAL SCORE**

Judging Comments