2025 Penn State Eastern Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium

**Penn State Brandywine**

**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 four 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 specific and informative title

 Funding sources (if applicable)

 Objectives

 Significance to the field and/or society

 Methods

 Results, conclusions, and future research directions.

 Use and documentation of scholarly sources or other resources appropriate to the discipline. Both in-text citations and a references section should be included.

**2) Display -** The core of each exhibit is a poster with text and graphics intended for a general audience. PowerPoint-style presentations are not allowed as a substitute; however, a laptop or tablet may be used as a supplement to the poster or 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 36x48 inches.

**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.

 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 the project exhibit a thorough investigation of the topic?

**Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium – Judging Rubric**

**Poster number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ First Author:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Check under which topic the project falls:**

1. **Arts and Humanities**
2. **Biological Sciences and Health**
3. **Physical Sciences and Information, Information Sciences, Engineering**
4. **Social Sciences and Business**

**Content** - Assign each individual lettered item (a through g below) a score of 0–5, where

**0 = not present 1 = Poor 2 = Below Average 3 = Average 4 = Above Average 5 = Excellent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the student’s poster content on the following:** |
|  | a. The title is specific and informative, and all collaborators are acknowledged. |
|  | b. Scholarly or discipline-appropriate sources were used to develop the project. |
|  | c. All sources are cited in the text and in a Works Cited section. |
|  | d. The objectives/hypotheses are stated clearly and concisely. |
|  | e. The significance to the field and to society is clearly stated. |
|  | f. The data and results have been interpreted and presented persuasively. |
|  | g. The discussion/conclusion section addresses major implications of the findings and suggestions for future research. |
|  | **1. Total Score for Content (add the scores for items a-f) (maximum possible for section = 35)** |

**Visuals -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 0–5, where

**0 = not present 1 = Poor 2 = Below Average 3 = Average 4 = Above Average 5 = Excellent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the poster’s visual appeal on the following:** |
|  | a. The exhibit attracts attention and conveys important information about the project in a creative way. |
|  | b. The text is written in a clear and concise manner, with no spelling and few grammatical errors. |
|  | c. Terms are clearly defined. |
|  | d. Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs are well organized, understandable, and explain relevant concepts  to a wide audience. |
|  | **2. Total Score for Display (add the scores for items a-d) ((maximum possible for section = 20)** |

**Oral Presentation -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 0–5, where

**0 = not present 1 = Poor 2 = Below Average 3 = Average 4 = Above Average 5 = Excellent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the presenter (s) on the oral presentation based on:** |
|  | a. The presenter(s) was/were self-confident, professional, and knowledgeable about the research and information being presented. |
|  | b. The presentation is understandable to a general audience. |
|  | c. The major points of the research were discussed in the oral presentation. |
|  | d. The student(s) clearly described his/her/their role in the overall project and gave credit to any collaborators. |
|  | **3. Total Score for Oral Presentation (add the scores for items a-d) (maximum possible for section = 20)** |

**Thoroughness -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through c below) a score of 0–5, where

**0 = not present 1 = Poor 2 = Below Average 3 = Average 4 = Above Average 5 = Excellent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the thoroughness of the overall project on the following:** |
|  | a. The project shows originality |
|  | b. The project exhibits critical thought. |
|  | c. The project exhibits a thorough investigation of the topic. |
|  | **4. Total Score for Thoroughness (add the scores for items a-c) (maximum possible for section = 15)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Grand Total - Add Items in the shaded area numbered 1 – 4 from above  (Maximum possible for all areas = 90)** |

**Judge’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
(Please leave any comments for the student on back of sheet)**