

2009 NATA Young Scientists Award

Finalists' Scientific Poster presentation

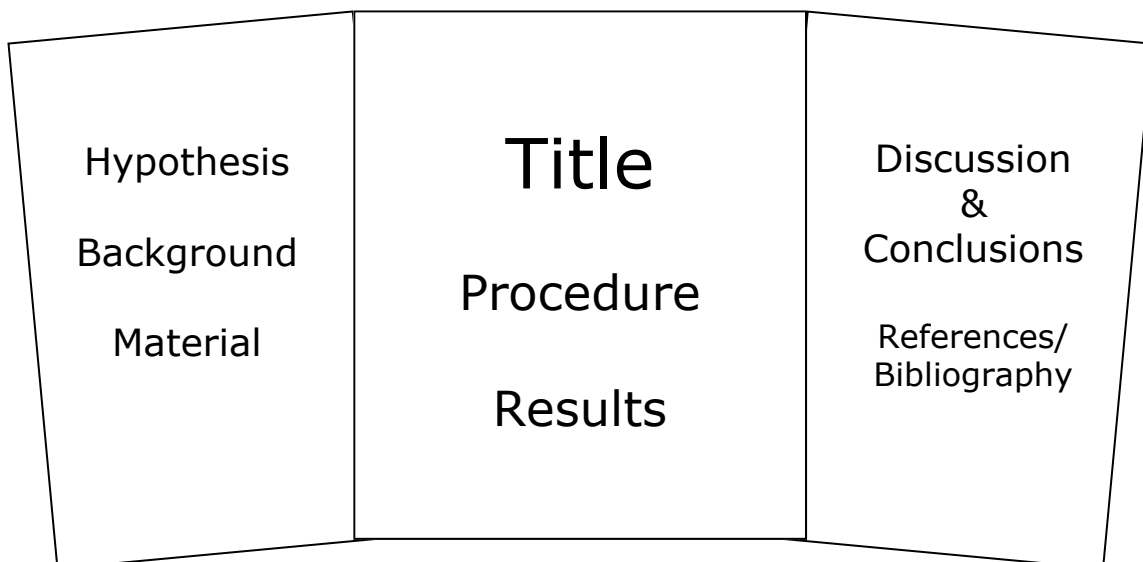
Congratulations again on being named as a finalist in the 2009 NATA Young Scientists Award.

For the final judging we would like you to provide a poster presentation to tell the story of your investigations. You may like to use photos, diagrams, graphs, drawings or diagrams to describe your experiment.

Students' presentations should convey to the judges:

- What they investigated
- Why they were interested in the investigation
- How they did the investigation
- What they observed
- What the observation/results mean
- Why the results are important
- What they have learned
- What they may do next

Sample Scientific Poster Layout



The poster information can be grouped under the following headings:

Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a statement that describes the relationship between the two variables that are being investigated.

Background

The background provides a brief summary of the science behind the investigation. Information for this section comes from the initial research, and includes information from secondary sources such as books and the Internet.

Material

Lists the materials and equipment required to conduct the investigation. It should be suitably detailed so that people are able to repeat the investigation. Diagrams and pictures may be useful to demonstrate the set-up of equipment.

Procedure

The procedure describes the steps taken to collect the data. The procedure should explain what variable is being measured and how, which variable is being changed and by how much (for example, ml, cm, degrees) and which identified variables are being kept constant. A flow chart is a useful way of writing a procedure.

Results

The results section shows the findings of the investigation. Diagrams, tables and graphs are often used, accompanied with a few sentences describing the results.

Discussion and Conclusion

This section relates to the hypothesis. Students can explain what they have discovered and how this relates to the background information. Students should discuss how the investigation can be improved and what future investigation may involve. Students may suggest possible applications of their findings to the community.

Bibliography

It is important for participating classes to recognise and acknowledge the people that have helped plan and conduct the investigation. This would include authors and their books, websites and people they have spoken to.