Title (should be descriptive of the work)

Your Names Here (typically in alphabetical order unless first author did most of the work)
Wofford College, South Carolina

Introduction

This section should provide background information from the *primary* literature about your topic. Your introduction should move from the general to specific and end with the purpose (or hypothesis) of your research. Narrow your literature review as much as possible to focus on your research topic (it takes time to find relevant articles!). Describe to the reader how your study is similar to prior work but also adds something new to what is already known.

Avoid plagiarizing the work of other authors by first summarizing their findings in your own words and citing the source. A citation of a paper with more than two authors would be Smith, et al. 2009, two authors would be Smith and Jones, 2009, etc. The citation should immediately precede or follow the sentence or portion of a sentence from which the information came. For example: Smith and Jones (2009) have shown that… Or: The genus Plasmodium is estimated to include at least 172 species (Telford et al., 1994), with four infecting humans (Cox, 1993).

Methods

This section includes information on how the experiment was performed. It should be brief but descriptive (a list of supplies and steps is not appropriate). Consider using photos or diagrams (each would have its own figure caption) *if* they would help the reader understand what was done. Remember that the reader should get the gist of the experimental protocols here. A research poster doesn't give as much detail as a full article, but it should provide an overview with enough detail for a peer (naive to the experiment) to understand what you did. Be sure to name/describe the statistical tests that you used to analyze your data.

Results

This section should be dominated by results that appear in graph or table form but will also typically have a descriptive paragraph. Each figure must have below it a descriptive caption that begins with Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. The figure caption should include information important for interpreting the figure (sample size, t-statistic, p value, etc). Each Table must be numbered (Table 1, Table 2, etc.) with a descriptive header across the top. Statistics should be displayed appropriately; mean values should be shown relative to sample variance (e.g., standard error values can be calculated using JMP). Your results SHOULD NOT include raw data and *you should not interpret* your results in this section.

Other hints for preparing your poster:

1. *Just type over the text in each section if you want to use the template as is and immediately save it as a new file with your section letter, team number, and assignment name (e.g., Bio150FTeam6Poster1).*
2. *If you want to change the background, logo, etc., then go to "slide master" under the view tab.*
3. *Consider adding relevant photos to your poster – they capture the eye and draw people to your poster.*
4. *The overall poster dimensions are 11" X 17". Stick with this, as it makes it easy for us to print on this larger paper.*
5. *Brevity is key – write out a draft of your text and then remove as many words as possible. Note: You are looking at too many words on this poster template!*
6. *Get many people to critique your poster to improve it. Remember that peer-review is a hallmark of good scholarship.*
7. *See example research posters on the walls of Milliken Science Center. Which ones are most effective and why?*
8. *Use past tense when describing your experiment. Use of first person (we) is acceptable..*

Discussion

In your discussion you should interpret your results rather than restate them. If needed, refer the reader back to a figure or table when you interpret it.

Reflect on your introduction -- do your results support your hypothesis and/or stated purpose? Do your findings support or refute the findings of other scientists? Your discussion should address these types of questions.

Remember, you must interpret the results you get, not the ones you wanted or expected. Getting unexpected results may mean that you're on to something interesting! Include what you consider to be the best explanation for your results, but include alternative explanation(s), too. Based on your findings, are there any changes in protocol that you would recommend to reduce ambiguity?

How might your work inform future studies? One common way to end this section is to describe a future study -- keep your focus here and design a "next step" experiment to address a question that emerges from your experiment. Provide enough detail to show that you've really thought about the proposed study's purpose and design.

At the end, you need to try to link the work you've done to the bigger picture. This is the "So What?" part of your poster.

Literature Cited

Any work that you have cited above must appear in this section. Format your citations like those in one of your primary articles or go for help to http://nsm1.nsm.iup.edu/rgendron/citation.shtml.
It is *not* OK to list a bunch of web sites. You must include at least four primary sources (published articles from refereed journals that you have read) related to your topic.

Acknowledgements

Use this space to thank those who helped you. It is optional, but nice.