# **Designing an Accessible Scientific Poster Facilitator Guide**

**Project Title:** Designing an Accessible Scientific Poster

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**Keywords:** scientific poster, science communication, accessibility

**Description:** This resource is designed to teach undergraduate students how to design a scientific poster that is accessible to diverse audiences in preparation for the annual SEA Symposium.

The resource includes:

1. A PowerPoint presentation that can be used to introduce the scientific poster design.
2. #BetterPoster PowerPoint templates
3. A checklist students can use to evaluate their posters prior to printing.
4. A fully validated rubric outlining the steps an expert would take to develop a scientific poster.
5. A poster reflection activity that can be used to enhance student engagement at the SEA Symposium.

The activities are designed to be used with students who have already completed their research and have results and figures.

**Learning objectives:**

After completing this module, students should be able to:

1. Identify key features of accessible scientific poster design.
2. Communicate research findings to a wide audience in the form of a scientific poster.
3. Demonstrate effective use of accessibility in poster design.
4. Critically evaluate a scientific poster at a scientific meeting.

**How is the resource structured to promote student development as a scientist?** Disseminating scientific research is an important skill for all STEM majors. One of the most common ways that scientific research is presented at meetings is through scientific posters, and students continue to use this skill after their undergraduate career in graduate school and other research-focused careers. The focus of this resource is to help students develop a scientific poster using inclusive design practices.

**Intended Teaching Setting**

**Course level:** majors or non-majors of any level that conduct research

**Instructional Setting:** in-person, could be used in a remote class if students have already conducted a research project

**Implementation Time Frame:**   
3-6 hours total  
Introductory PowerPoint – 30 min.  
Poster design – 1-3 hours (varies)  
Peer review/poster checklist – 20-30 min.  
Poster design reflection – 30 min. (or outside of class)

**Acknowledgments:** #BetterPoster by Mike Morrison (<https://osf.io/ef53g/>); HHMI SEA-PHAGES Program

**Project Documents**

**Facilitator document:**   
0 – Designing an Accessible Scientific Poster Facilitator Guide

**Learning activity document(s):**   
1 – Poster Introductory PowerPoint  
2 – #BetterPoster Templates  
3 – SEA Scientific Poster Checklist  
4 – SEA Symposium Reflection Activity

**Assessment document(s):**

5 – Designing an Accessible Scientific Poster Validated Rubric  
6 – Designing an Accessible Scientific Poster Scoring Rubric