

Poster Presentation Basics For SCVS

SOME HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Speak to the audience, not the poster. Speak to the back of the group, not just the person in front of you. Work on this so that you can learn how to project your voice without shouting.
2. Keep your hands out of your pockets. Use natural gestures.
3. Practice to avoid using “ummys,” “ahhs” and other distractions.
4. Speak slowly and naturally. You should not have to gasp for air as you race through your presentation (trying to beat the clock).
5. **PRACTICE** so you can present your material without having to look at the poster. Give the poster presentation to an audience of friends. Ask for criticism concerning the following:
 - Did I present the material clearly?
 - Did I seem to be hurried?
 - Did I speak to the audience?
 - Was I believable? If not, why?
 - Did I answer questions clearly and directly?
 - Did I give you a sense of confidence that I actually did the work presented?
6. **Dress** professionally. Do not come in off the golf course and go straight to the poster presentation. Whether you like it or not, people will judge you on appearance. If you look casual, don't expect the audience to believe that you are serious about your work. You want to look professional.
7. Design your poster as you would design slides:
 - Limit the amount of text.
 - Limit the number of lines of text in any one given area.
 - Double or triple space.
 - Remember that people will be standing from 5 to 10 feet away. Some people have trouble reading smaller print at a distance. Have someone look at a preliminary poster design to make sure it is readable.
 - Use pictures, photos, graphs, etc. to make your point (rather than a lot of text).
 - Your goal is to summarize your work, not to use the poster as an alternative to a manuscript – put in your poster only what you have in your abstract.

GOOD LUCK!