

Guidelines for draft posters

A poster draft should give a reasonably clear idea of what the poster would be like, including title, content, sources, illustrations, and your argument and conclusions. The draft should be roughly what you would work from as you physically prepare the poster. That is, the research should be finished, the wording worked out, the graphics picked, and so on. Of course, this is a draft, so I may suggest changes and you may make improvements (maybe major ones) before preparing the final poster, but in an ideal world, your draft would be ready to turn into a final poster without further research or writing.

One way to present such a draft would be to list bullet points that will appear on the poster and draft texts that would support them, or an outline of the headlines and texts. This should include an indication of any illustrations you plan to use (with captions), either referring to specific illustrations from sources you already have, or describing the sort of image you hope to find or prepare. A close-to-final draft of the bibliography should be attached. Finally, a sketch of how you might arrange it all on the poster would be helpful.

Another approach would be to actually prepare a mock-up poster on six sheets of paper (which will be slightly smaller than the 22 x 28 inches of your finished poster) that could be laid out next to each other to form the poster. This would show the title, headlines, text, bibliography, and illustrations with captions (the real thing, sketched in, or described). This could be done by computer-printing the headlines, texts, captions, etc., making simple pencil outlines or boxes representing your illustrations, cutting out all these parts, and sticking them on the six sheets. Feel free to cut up texts or illustrations if they cross from one page to another. Please indicate on the back how the six pages fit together. You might want to turn in photocopies of these pasted-up pages so you don't have to worry about bits falling off.

Variations on these approaches are fine, as long as I can form a clear idea of your proposed poster.