



POSTER FIGURES AND CAPTIONS

Purpose: Most likely, your project will generate quite a lot of data. Your group will be responsible for collecting and presenting these data. Simply putting these data in a large table is usually not a very effective means of explaining your findings. Instead, you will need to condense these data and represent them graphically in some way.

Points: Your individual contributions will be scored out of fifteen possible points.

Instructions: Although there are many different ways to present your findings, they can be broken down to a few different elements.

Tables: You might elect to summarize some of your data in tables (use Excel). Make sure that all columns and rows are clearly labeled. Keep your font size large enough to be legible on the poster (> 20 point Arial font).

Graphs: In other cases, the data may be better presented as a graph. You must label your axes and provide appropriate legends. Be mindful of your color selections and the appropriateness of the graph style (column, bar, XY, vs pie charts). You should provide error bars whenever possible.

Ancillary Graphics: Depending upon your project, you may need graphics to support your methods section (sampling sites, methods, or background).

Captions: You should write a brief paragraph for each of the figures that you generate. Cite references, if appropriate, to support your discussion. Do not just reiterate the information present in the graphs and tables. The audience should be able to look at the graphics while referring your discussion and come away with the gist of your project. These paragraphs will appear next to our figures on the poster. In this way, the flow of information through the poster will be facilitated.

You should create three figures for our poster (one per page). The graphics should be large enough to fill about one half of the page. The captions should appear below each figure as a short, double-spaced paragraph using Microsoft Word™. Use one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. Put your name on the back of each sheet and turn them in on the due date.

Due Date: Your figures are due in lab on October 20, 2010.

Grading Criteria: Each of your figures will be scored using the following rubric.

Score	Description
5-points	The figure is appropriately formatted, clearly labeled, and easily understood by the reader. The caption accurately explains the material presented and uses proper English syntax.
4-points	The figure is appropriately formatted and easily understood by the reader. The caption explains the material presented and uses proper English syntax.
3-points	The figure could be better presented in a different format. While it is labeled, it is not easily understood by the reader. The caption explains the material presented and uses proper English syntax.
2-points	The figure could be better presented in a different format. The figure is incompletely labeled and is not easily understood by the reader. The caption explains the material presented but has some problems with English syntax.
1-point	The figure is not properly formatted or labeled, and does not help the reader to understand the findings of the poster. The caption is missing or incomplete.