



POSTER INTRODUCTION

Purpose: For most people, the introduction will be the first part of your poster to be read after the title. You should use this section to set up the rationale for your research project. Use the active voice (it is more concise and interesting to read) third person pronouns (we not I) and past tense to describe your project. Scientists use present tense to describe previously established facts. For example: *Escherichia coli* is a Gram-negative bacterium found in the colon of many animals. Contrast this with: We have tested chicken samples from four different sources for the presence of coliform bacteria.

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

Instructions: Although there are many different ways to approach the introduction, I prefer the following organization.

The hook: Begin with a splash; throw out a statement or statistic that captures the reader's attention.

Development: Follow up by developing the idea. You should slowly begin to define the context of the problem that you have chosen. You should be working from a very general hook to a more specific research proposal.

Support: You MUST cite appropriate references to support your development. There is no need to use all available references. You must, however, use proper (author date) formatting for your citations.

Segue: Toward the end of your development, you should provide a linking sentence to our thesis statement.

Hypothesis: Your introduction should conclude with your thesis statement - this is essentially a brief recapitulation of the hypothesis.

You should create a short, double-spaced document using Microsoft Word™. Use one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. On a single page, write your introduction to our poster. Keep organization described above in mind. Put your name on the back of the sheet and turn it in on the due date.

Due Date: Your introductions are due in lab on November 3, 2010.

Grading Criteria: Your submission will be scored using the following rubric.

Score	Description
10-points	The introduction is well organized, contains two or more proper citations, and has no spelling or grammatical errors. The introduction gives a clear background of the project and ends with a transition to the experimental hypothesis.
8-points	The introduction is organized, contains two or more proper citations, and has few spelling or grammatical errors. The introduction gives a clear background of the project and ends with a segue to the experimental hypothesis.
6-points	The introduction is organized, contains at least one proper citation, and has some spelling or grammatical errors. The introduction give a background of the project and ends with a transition to the experimental hypothesis.
4-points	The introduction is somewhat organized, contains at least one proper citation, and has several spelling or grammatical errors. The introduction gives a background of the project but does not end with a transition to the experimental hypothesis.
2-points	The introduction is not well organized, does not have proper citations, and has a lot of spelling or grammatical errors. The introduction provides a little background for the project.