

CS224N: Project Poster/Video Instructions

Last updated on March 12, 2020

Each team (both default and custom) makes **one poster or one video**, which is worth 3% of your grade. This document gives instructions for making your poster or video – it applies to both default and custom projects.

1 Content of your poster/video

The requirements for the poster/video are much the same as in other project classes, or at research conference poster sessions. The purpose of a poster/video is to give the viewer (who you assume is not familiar with your work or perhaps even the general area of your work) a quick and easy-to-understand overview of your work, highlighting only the most important and interesting details. Usually this means you want to cover something like the following content (though of course you can devise your own structure):

- **Problem:** Briefly explain what problem you are tackling, why it's important, and what the existing approaches are (you might also mention the limitations of these approaches).
- **Data/Task:** Briefly explain (or better, give examples of) the data and/or task.
- **Approach:** Describe your main methods/techniques/models. Diagrams are generally better than text, and equations should be used sparingly (if at all). Highlight the core idea of your techniques.
- **Results:** Present your most important results. Tables containing many numbers are overwhelming. Be selective and choose just the results that convey the story you're telling. Make it clear what the evaluation metrics are, and what's being compared.
- **Analysis:** Show any plots, diagrams, examples and visualizations to provide interesting analysis. Make it clear what the reader should conclude from each figure.
- **Conclusions:** Briefly draw some main conclusions from your work. If you wish, you can outline future work.

- **References:** Posters typically have just a few references (e.g. 1-3), just for the papers that are core to the work.

Whether you're making a poster or a video, aim to make all these sections **visual** rather than **text-heavy**, **clean and minimal** rather than **cluttered**, and **intuitive** rather than **complicated**.

2 Poster-specific instructions

At the poster session you will be supplied with a posterboard (width 30 inches, height 20 inches), an easel, and push pins. Your poster will look best if you print it on one large sheet of paper (locations on or near campus include Staples, FedEx, CopyFactory, and Lathrop), but if you assemble your poster out of smaller sheets that's okay too.¹

3 Video-specific instructions

Your video should be a 3-5 minute overview of your work, covering the content described in Section 1. You could think of it as similar to a 'lightning talk' given at a research conference.

The recommended and easiest way to make your video is to make some slides, and then to record a screencast (i.e. you record the screen and record yourself talking – your face doesn't appear). There's lots of free software to do this² – search online for 'screencast'. You can make a fancier video if you like, but a screencast is perfectly sufficient.³

4 Grading

Posters/videos will be graded based on the strength of the project, and the quality of the presentation.

If you show your poster at the poster session, it will be graded by a staff member (who may also ask you questions about your work). If you make a video, it will be played on a screen at the poster session, and will be graded by a staff member.

Your grader won't necessarily be your mentor. Posters/videos should be easily understandable by people who are not familiar with your work, so this is a good opportunity to show your work to a different staff member.

¹Advice for making good scientific posters: https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys596/fa2013/Lectures/ScientificPosterTips_FA12.pdf

²For example, this is simple and easy to use:

<https://screencast-o-matic.com/screen-recorder>

³Videos from 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfnBPN7hdzPmpvkMYiZhr8UpDqZRnyiB2>

5 Submission instructions

- If your team is submitting a poster, please upload the poster as a PDF to **Final Project - Poster / Video** on Gradescope (in addition to presenting it during the poster session).
- If your team is submitting a video, please upload the video to YouTube (the video can be unlisted if you like) and upload a placeholder PDF to **Final Project - Poster / Video** on Gradescope. The placeholder PDF should just contain the URL to your video.

For both posters and videos, it's important that you upload to Gradescope so that we can enter your grade. **Please upload to Gradescope before 11:59 AM (noon) on Monday March 16. You cannot apply late days to the poster/video.** Please make sure to tag all of your team members – only tagged team members will receive credit.