2026 Poster Competition
Virtual Competitors Guide

Event Information:

Date: Thursday, March 5th
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Student Union Building Ballroom

Deadline:

Please note that the deadline is <u>firm</u>. The application, abstract, poster, and video are all due on Friday, February 20th, no later than 5:00 p.m.

Videos are only required for students enrolled in distance programs who are participating virtually. If you are participating in person, please see the In-Person Competitors Guide.

Registration:

To register for the competition please visit this website.

Competition Overview:

Students competing virtually will have their pre-recorded videos evaluated by a panel of judges on Thursday, March 5th. Like the in-person competitors, pre-recorded videos will be evaluated between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5th. Virtual participants do not have to be available on the event day or join via Zoom to present. Judges will complete digital rubrics for virtual participants and evaluate and score the pre-recorded videos and posters according to the same criteria as the students participating on campus.

Abstract Guidelines:

Abstracts **cannot exceed 250 words** and should briefly describe the research. Abstracts should be written for a non-specialized audience due to the interdisciplinary nature of the competition.
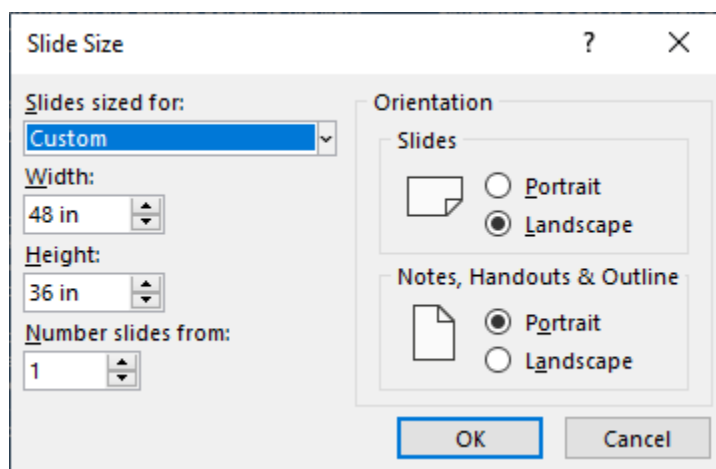
Poster Guidelines:

<u>Posters CANNOT exceed 36" height x 48" width</u>. Please ensure that your poster meets the size requirements. Posters that exceed the dimensions will not be eligible to participate on March 5th and will be disqualified. Additional guidelines for posters can be found below. While we recommend using Microsoft PowerPoint to create your poster, competitors are welcome to use other programs. Please follow the specifications and guidelines listed below.

<u>The Graduate School will not print posters for this competition</u>. Competitors are responsible for the printing and payment of their research poster. Competitors must have their poster set up

by 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 5th. Graduate Student Life will provide the necessary materials (putty, thumbtacks, Velcro, etc.) to hang the poster.

Dimensions:
- 36" height x 48" width
  - In Microsoft PowerPoint, open a new file.
  - Select *Design* from the toolbar at the top of the screen.
  - Select *Slide Size* and *Custom Slide Size* found on the far-right side of the screen.
  - Ensure that your Slide Size is set up like the image below.

  - Select *OK* and begin designing your poster and entering your research information.

Text:
- Avoid using more than 2-3 fonts.
- Use basic fonts like Arial, Times New Roman, Georgia, Helvetica, etc.
- Left-align text.
- Ensure font size is large enough to be seen from a few feet away.

Poster Elements
You are not required to use all the listed elements. This is an example of what you can include in your poster.
- Introduction/Objective/Abstract
- Method
- Results/Data Analysis
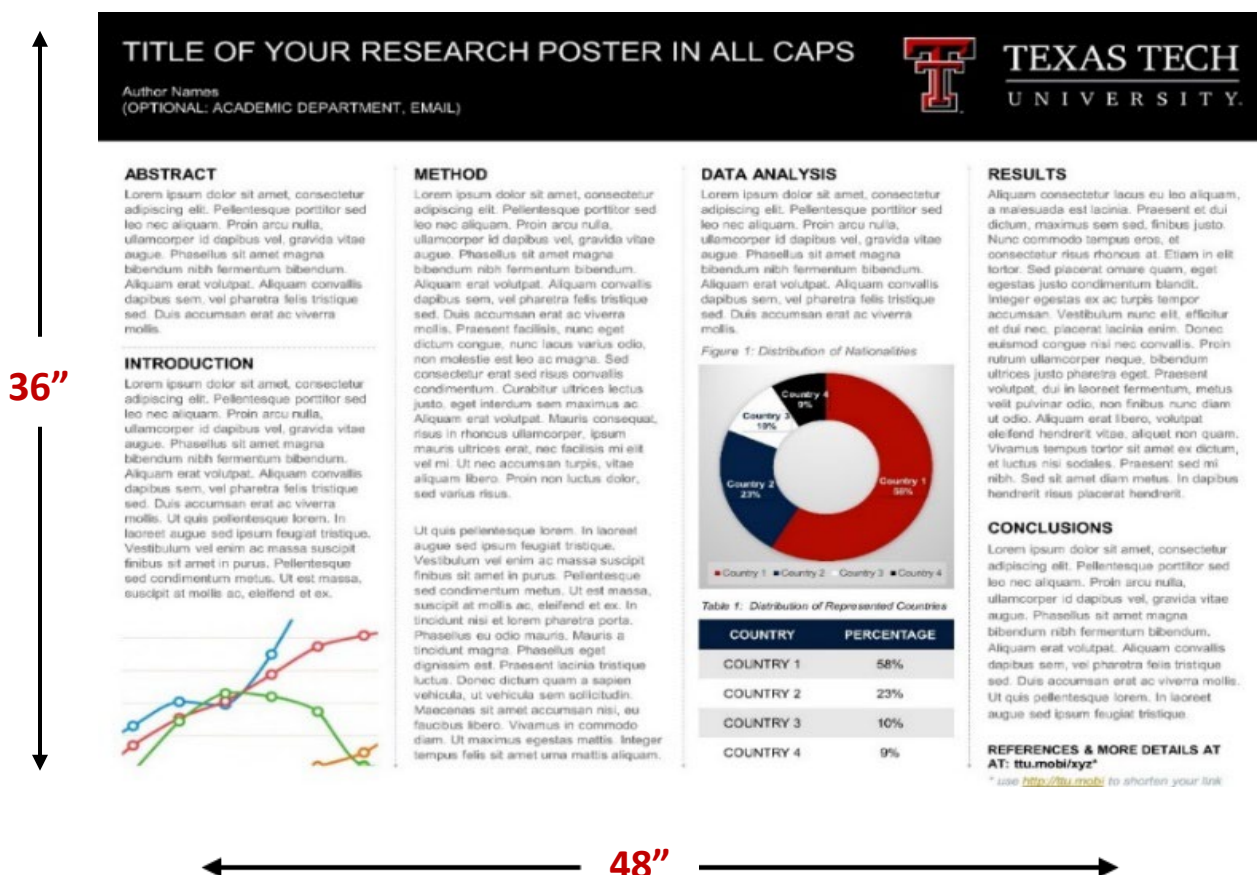- Conclusion
- References/Acknowledgments

Layout
- Ensure even spacing throughout.
- Use clear images, tables, and graphs.
- Use the same color scheme throughout.

Additional Notes:

- Is your poster written with a non-specialist audience in mind?
- Is there enough background/contextual information for a non-specialist to understand your work and its significance?
- Did you discuss the implications of your research for your field and the community at large?
- Did you proofread your poster, including the headings?

Poster Example

Do you need a poster template or official TTU logos?
Visit this [website](#) to download templates for 36" x 48" posters. Templates include a 3-column and 4-column poster. For official TTU logos, please visit [this website](#) for more information.

Video Guidelines

- Video presentations are due **Friday, February 20th, by 5:00 p.m.** Videos not submitted by the deadline will not compete in the event or be scored by the judges. **Videos need to be emailed to studentlife.gradschool@ttu.edu.** Videos can be emailed as an MP4 file or a OneDrive download link.

- Students are welcome to use any video recording platform they would like.
- Video presentations **CANNOT exceed 5 minutes**. Competitors exceeding 5 minutes are disqualified.
  - Video presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through speech.
  - Videos must meet the following criteria:
    - Filmed on the horizontal.
    - Filmed on a plain background.
    - Filmed from a static position.
    - Filmed from one camera angle.
    - The presenter and the poster must be visible throughout the entire video presentation.
- An introduction slide will be displayed before each video presentation, including the competitor's name, academic information, and presentation title. The Graduate Student Life team will create this; you do not need to create this in your presentation.
- After the introduction slide, the video presentation will begin.
- The video slide will include a full-screen image of the video with the competitor and poster visible on the screen. If the presenter obstructs portions of the poster, the score will not be affected.
- Once the video is complete, a closing slide will be displayed with a full-screen image of the competitor's poster.
- The decision of the judges is final. Competitors will not be judged on video/recording quality. Judging will focus on the presentation and the student's ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience.

FAQs:

- **I made an error on my application/abstract/poster/video; can I update it before the competition?**
  Please contact us at studentlife.gradschool@ttu.edu for assistance.

- **What should I wear for the competition?**
  We highly recommend professional business attire.

- **How many judges will see my video presentation?**
  We typically have 5-7 judges score the video presentations. This is the same number of judges for students competing in person.

- **What should I expect on the day of the competition?**
  Final details will be sent to all students the week of the competition. Please check your email for additional information.

- **How are the winners determined?**
  The judges score the competitors on a scale of 1-5 in 6 areas. The total possible points from

each rubric is 30. For example, if every competitor in your competition category met with five judges, the highest four scores will determine a winner. If there is a tie, the 5th and lowest score will be added to the total to break the tie.

- **When will the winners be announced?**
  Competitors will be notified via email on or before Wednesday, March 11th. Results will also be posted on the Graduate School website.

- **How many winners will there be?**
  Each competition category will have a first-, second-, and third-place winner.

- **What happens if I win?**
  Winners will receive a monetary prize that will be posted to your student account. Prize amounts are to be determined.

- **I would like a copy of my rubrics. How do I get them?**
  Graduate Student Life will provide competitors with a digital copy of their rubrics if requested via email by the competitor. We will not release rubrics to anyone without the written consent of the student competitor.

  To request a digital copy of your rubrics, please email studentlife.gradschool@ttu.edu. Please note that your rubrics will not be available immediately following the competition. Due to the Spring Break holiday March 16th – 20th, rubrics will be sent the week of March 23rd.