

Plains Anthropological Society

Student Poster Competition

Guidelines and Tips



Collaborative Projects

- All authors must be enrolled as full or part-time graduate or undergraduate students. Please indicate the status of each of the authors (graduate or undergraduate) at the time the poster is submitted.
- Authorship means you have had an active participation in the research, writing, and presentation of the data. You should be prepared to discuss each author's role during the poster presentation.
- The poster must be based on the authors' original research. The role of faculty and project principal investigators should be confined to consultation and be recognized in the acknowledgements.
- It is best if all authors can be present for the presentation. At a minimum, the lead author *must* be a member of the society, be registered for the conference, and be present for the poster session.
- The lead author will receive two banquet tickets to be utilized as the group agrees.

Tips for a Successful Entry

1. Decide whether your research is best presented as a poster or a paper. If the topic requires a lot of explanatory text it might work better as an oral paper rather than a poster.
2. Your poster must meet the style/size guidelines outlined in the Call for Papers.
3. Express your ideas simply and clearly. Remember that all sorts of Plains anthropologists must be able to understand your ideas and why your research is relevant.
4. Carefully proofread your poster, check the bibliography and the acknowledgements. Make sure the text is clear and legible and not overwhelming. A poster needs to convey its main points quickly. Tables and graphs are the best way to summarize data. Figures and images should be clear and relevant. Too much text is a turn off.
5. Ask colleagues and professors to study your poster and ask you questions about it. Try to incorporate their suggestions into the final product.

6. Poster presentations are informal. You should be prepared to present a concise, fluent statement about your research, using your poster to illustrate your discussion.
7. Do not monopolize the conversation. Invite listeners to ask questions and discuss your work.
8. Visit the room and view other poster sessions to get an idea how other people handle poster presentations. You can get some great ideas about the best ways to engage listeners.
9. If you are nervous, remember almost everyone in the room has felt the same way, especially the first few times out! People will stop to talk because they are interested in what you have to say. You won't find a friendlier audience anywhere!