



# Theme 3 – Posters: a forgotten learning and communication approach



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## ***Structure of this theme***

Learning objectives

Educational posters: a first overview

Learning objectives you can pursue by having posters made

Examples of posters

Design guidelines for educational posters

The potential impact of educational posters

A checklist for evaluating educational posters

Your assignment for this theme

Planning

Literature references

Learning objectives

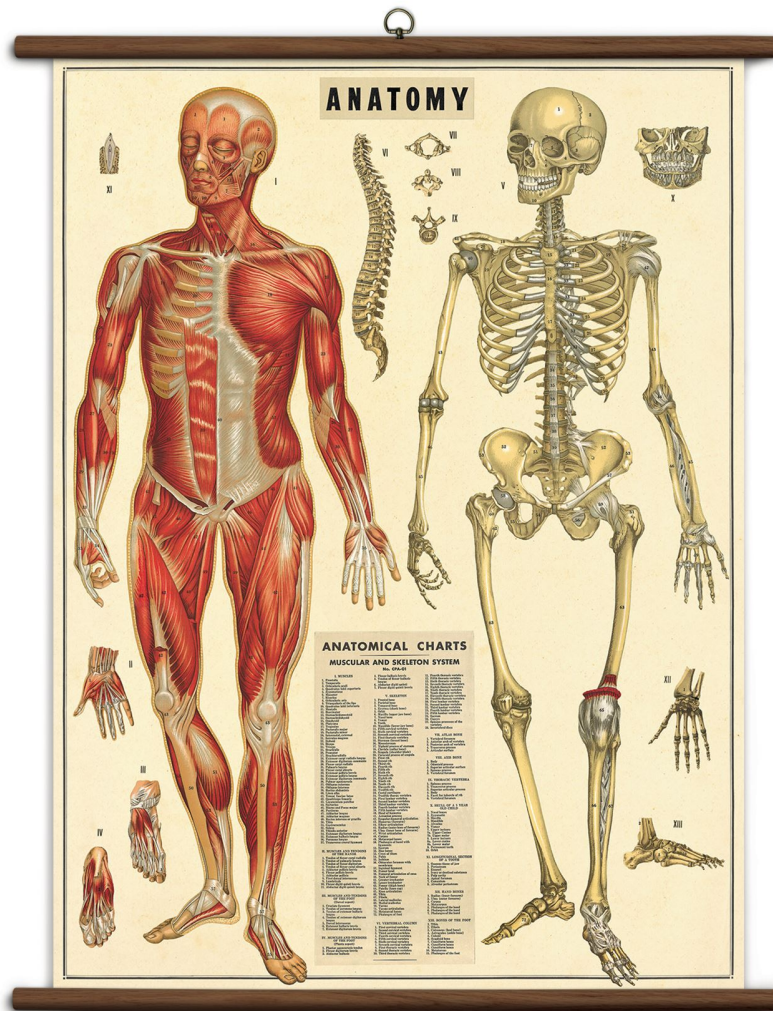


After studying this theme, you master the following learning objectives:

- Acknowledging the position of posters in 21st century higher education
- Linking poster design to the learning objectives of your own course
- Explaining the key design principles of an educational
- Evaluating the educational value of a poster

### Educational posters: a first overview ▼

Posters are part of the "heritage" of education. Besides the use of a blackboard (with the slate as a precursor), the use of posters goes back a long way. Sometimes those posters were referred to as wall charts. Nowadays, we often use the word infographics to refer to these posters. Since the 18th century, these wall charts have been seen as the solution to make education more "visual" (De Buck, 2015). You can see the visualization principle as a precursor to what cognitivists emphasize as the importance of "multiple representations". Typical wall charts showed historical situations, geographic phenomena, images in medicine, veterinary sciences, technology, mathematics, physics, chemistry ...

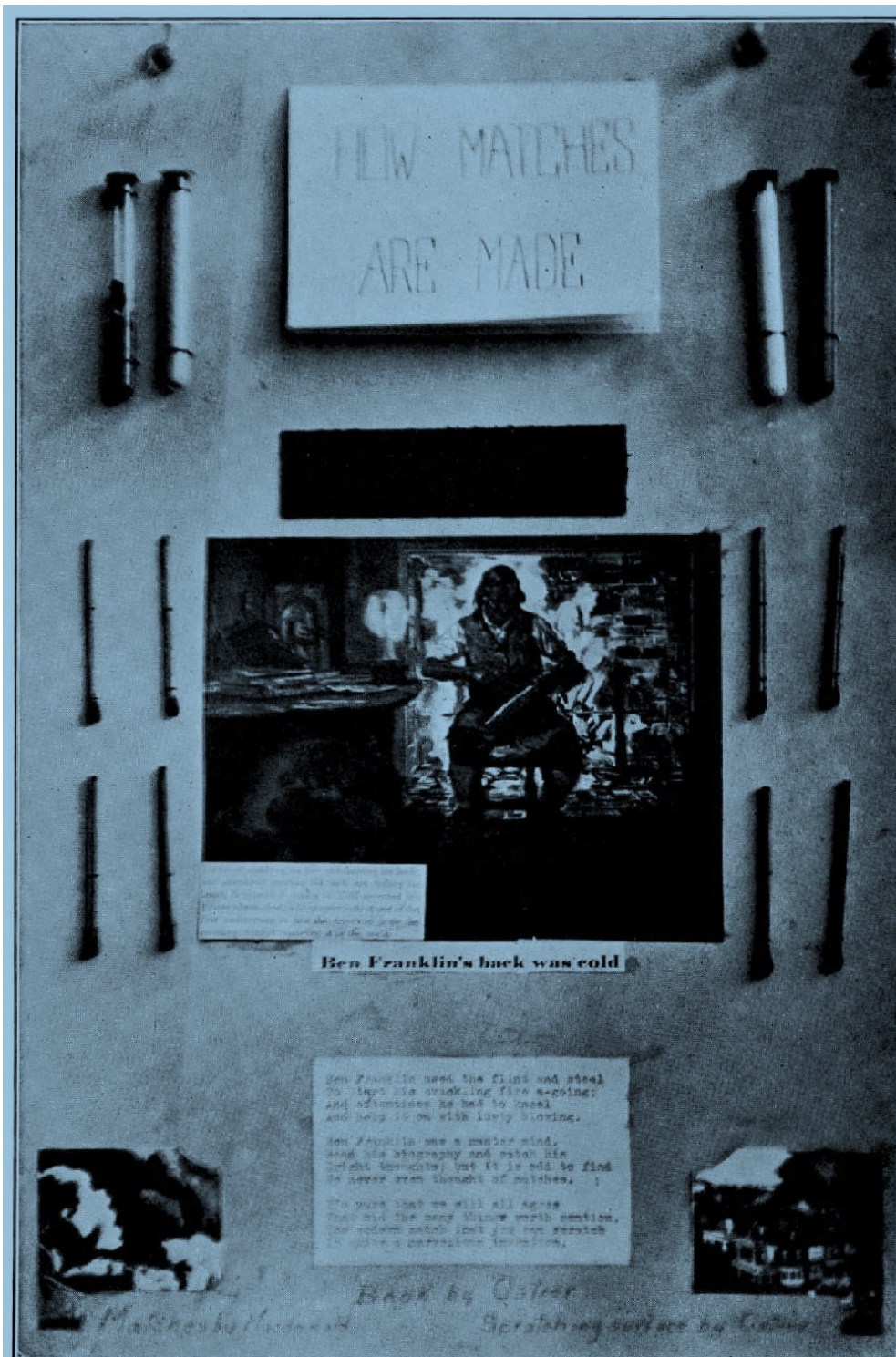


Examples of some historic educational posters found in lecture halls and labs (browse eBay and you will find many on offer)

The development of color printing, the introduction of full-color handbooks and the use of multimedia, whereby the students themselves can search, download and edit images (static and dynamic) themselves via the Internet.... Made that the importance of the classic wall plates has disappeared. They have become museum artifacts. For example, you will find a collection of 4,583 historical wall pictures in the 'School van Toen' in Ghent. And in a Dutch collection you will find more than 10,000 wall plates ([http://www.collectiontrade.nl/cms/index.php?page=shop.browse&category\\_id=1012&option=com\\_virtuemart&Itemid=35](http://www.collectiontrade.nl/cms/index.php?page=shop.browse&category_id=1012&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=35)).

But those "classic" wall charts hide a different kind of use of posters that is less known and underexposed in literature and classroom practice: having students design and develop posters themselves. In this third theme we look at this type of poster use. This does not prevent posters from also having a decorative value and ready-made posters can also still play a role in learning processes. But in this theme we do not consider that specific role. What we also don't cover in this theme are posters that aim to emphasize a specific idea and where one slogan and image are central. These posters also have a possible "learning" value (eg promotion of safe traffic, healthy food, reading more, tolerance, non-bullying...).

The following article by Stone (1929, p. 1535) contains early examples of how students collect and document chemical elements through a poster (ibid, p. 1538): "How matches are made". With the explanation: "The central picture shows Benjamin Franklin sitting with his back to the fireplace where the flames of the wood fire are dancing. Below are shown three short verses setting forth that Benjamin had to use flint and steel to start his fire since matches were then unknown, and concluding with the triumphant assertion that "" The common match that you can scratch is quite a marvelous invention. " Above the picture the producers of the poster have mounted a little book describing how they made their matches and the accompanying striking surface. Around the center are arranged tubes containing the different materials used in match manufacture and there are also shown a number of the matches made by the pupils. "



### POSTER No. 3

Two students who had experienced the satisfaction of making matches that work assembled this record of their achievement.

Figure 2. Students designing posters (Stone, 1928, p.1535-1538).

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The examples given so far are very close to illustrating settings, situations, events, objects... But there are early examples of use in abstract knowledge where reasoning is central (cause-effect, explanations, comparisons...). For example, Bell (1928) encouraged her students to make posters about how chemical processes can tackle the production of harmful smoke in factories or how chemical waste can be processed, how to fight fire by applying chemical processes or explain the operation of pesticides in rat extermination. Interestingly, Bell also explicitly states that you can use the poster activity to support the application of chemical knowledge (see Bloom), but that posters can also be used to test things out.



Figure 3: How does science help to prevent smog? (Bell, 1928, p.160).

Conyers (2003) also emphasizes the role of posters in assessment processes. As an example, she gives the development of posters at the end of a series of lessons on wound care. The students then worked out posters in which they summarize the core of the lessons, substantiate them with sources, illustrate them with photos and drawings. The students could choose which topic they would like to tackle from the series of lessons. A poster session followed after the

posters were developed. For the evaluation, emphasis was placed on criteria such as correct interpretation of information, organization of the information, relevance of the images and reference to original sources. Berry and Houston (1995) apply this in their mathematics lessons where students develop posters in the mathematical modeling lesson (eg in mechanics). In their research article they list the following learning objectives (ibid, p. 24):

- to encourage clear and concise thinking in mathematics;
- to provide opportunities for cooperative learning and discussion;
- to develop learning through peer-tutoring and self, peer and tutor assessment;
- to enhance communication skills;
- to introduce aspects of professional practice.

What is striking is their emphasis on "communication-oriented" learning goals, in a less obvious knowledge domain such as mathematics.

It makes sense to use posters when pursuing creative goals. Hasio (2015) had pupils develop posters that were then hung in the school and / or class. As a learning effect she refers to (ibid, p. 43): "Overall, the knowledge and skill outcomes reflected a higher level of processing and student learning. Students expressed themselves clearly and logically through their creative posters and demonstrated competence in problem-solving. They were also able to use their concepts to engage in self-reflection through class critiques and recognize that there were social, historical, and theoretical perspectives linked to their creativity. " She also refers to embedding in a culture: "There is cultural significance for using creative posters in the classroom; like advertising the posters operate on a cultural level to provide symbolic associations between images, media figures, and values related to the student's lifestyle " .



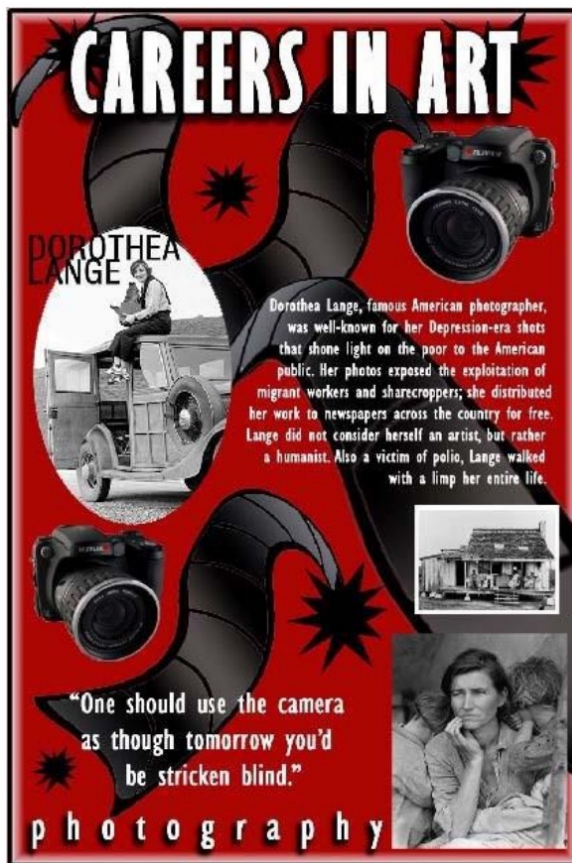


Figure 4. Student describing his/her future job as a photographer and how this supports her social engagement (Hasio, p.42).

In another example, DeCapua and Marshall "(2019) use English to speakers of other languages in the USA (referred to here as SLIFE: students with limited or interrupted formal Education). The posters are recreated by the students with the aim of: "students create and share a poster with information comparing and contrasting electoral votes in those two states. As SLIFE are accustomed to sharing responsibility for learning among others, the teacher adapts to the students by making this a pair-work activity. Together, students compare and contrast the two states: their electoral votes, populations, and other facts they choose to research. The final condition for learning that SLIFE are used to — oral instead of written transmission — is also attended to by the teacher because students present their pair-work together on a poster to their classmates. " You notice how the posters play a role in different stages of the learning process. The emphasis is on tracking down information about election results, comparing, looking for statements... The posters here fit into a process that is sometimes referred to as "inquiry learning". In the field of learning foreign languages, we also find poster use in Çetin and Flamand (2013). They had students

make posters to support their English vocabulary. You will find a similar approach with Aksyanova and Ostrovaya (2015). They used advertising posters.

In another example, we look again at a less obvious knowledge domain: healthcare. Duchin and Sherwood (1990) had students develop posters that were then used in a poster session. Carter (2012) emphasizes how this aims in scientific settings (conferences, symposia) to create a story and network in 5 to 10 minutes. The focused, summary, condensed, integrated... layout of a poster places high demands on its design. And there lies the learning potential that we want to pursue with posters (ibid, p.314): "Designing a scientific poster is thereof a bit a balancing act. Your challenge is to present as much information as possible in as few words a possible using visual aids designed to complement you, yet that can be understood without your presence. " And with a final example, we return to the sciences. Hay and Thomas (1999) had students make posters in biology. In their article they highlight a wide variety of learning objectives (ibid, p. 209):

- add variety, new challenges, and diverse assessment to the course being taught (Billington, 1997);
- stimulate literature searching experience (Mulnix and Penhale, 1997);
- provide opportunities to practise skills in condensing information (Sweeney, 1984);
- promote critical thought (Hinzmann, 1996);
- encourage student-staff interaction (see Howenstine et al., 1988; Rush et al., 1995).

The former paragraphs sound a little bit 'dated' and might reflect an old-fashioned perspective. We wanted to reiterate the 'history' behind posters, but in the next sections we will emphasize how alive and kicking 'making posters' is as an educational strategy in higher education. At least let you explore the multitude of tools and apps nowadays available for you and students to develop posters (<https://www.common sense.org/education/top-picks/apps-and-websites-for-making-posters-and-collages>).

For Parents

**For Educators**

For Advocates



Digital Citizenship

EdTech Reviews

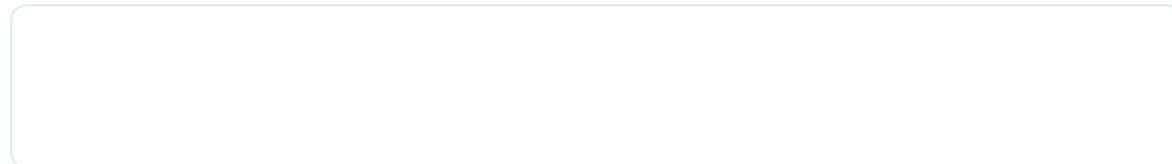
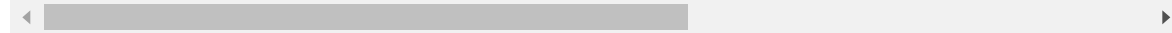
Professional Development &amp; Advice

Resources in S

TOP PICKS | 21 TOOLS

## Apps and Websites for Making Post

Student-created posters are a time-tested way to get kids to synthesize and demonstrate and present learning. Posters are also great tools for sharing information on classroom walls. These poster-making apps and websites are helping students and teachers work digitally, assembling multimedia drawings, writing, images, and more. There are also a few tools for exploring possibilities or connect students and teachers to cool images they



Learning objectives to be attained by developing posters



The examples in the previous section give a first idea of which learning goals you can pursue by having students develop posters.

But we find a lot of other examples (check:

[https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/ImplementingPosters\):](https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/ImplementingPosters):)

- brainstorming
- summarizing ideas, texts, books,
- developing a concept map for a complex theme
- description of a troubleshooting approach
- visualization of a process

- timeline for events, historical events,
- table
- venn diagram to map similarities and differences
- ...

The list of examples emphasizes here in addition to declarative knowledge (facts, concepts, structures, theories...) also strong emphasis can be placed on procedural knowledge (processes, approaches, step-by-step plans...). You will find them in all knowledge domains, so posters are quite universally applicable. However, many of the learning objectives will only be achieved when the posters are used in a broader learning and instruction process, thus involving preparatory activities and the posters being used in individual, group or classroom activities.

To give you an idea how university teachers use poster sessions and poster development as part of their teaching and learning strategies, check out the website of Liverpool University, School of Law ([https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/info/portal/pls/portal/tulwwwmerge.mergepage?p\\_template=m\\_lw&p\\_tulipproc=moddets&p\\_params=%3Fp\\_module\\_id%3D77410](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/info/portal/pls/portal/tulwwwmerge.mergepage?p_template=m_lw&p_tulipproc=moddets&p_params=%3Fp_module_id%3D77410)). The website includes the specific learning objectives being pursued.



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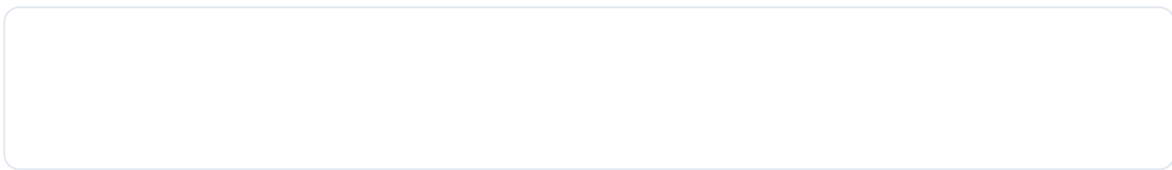
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Law School Modules

The information contained in this module specification was correct at the time of the session because of unforeseen circumstances, or following review of the module should be directed to the member of staff with responsibility for the module.

Table with 3 columns: Title, Code, Coordinator, Year, Session 2018-19. Row 1: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND WELFARE RIGHTS, LAW364, Dr SJ Currie, Law, Samantha.Currie@liverpool.ac.uk, CATS Level, Ser, Level 6 FHEQ, Firs



Examples of posters in higher education



Check out these examples of posters developed by students in higher education

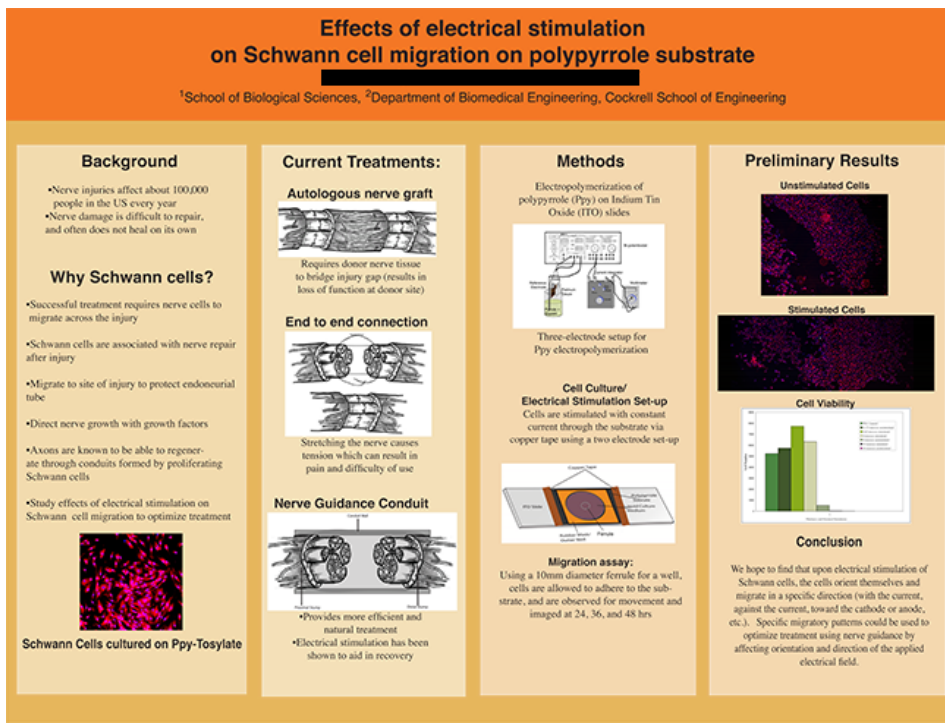


Figure 1: Check out this example from Texas University and read also the comments and feedback in relation to this and other posters (<https://ugs.utexas.edu/our/poster/samples>).

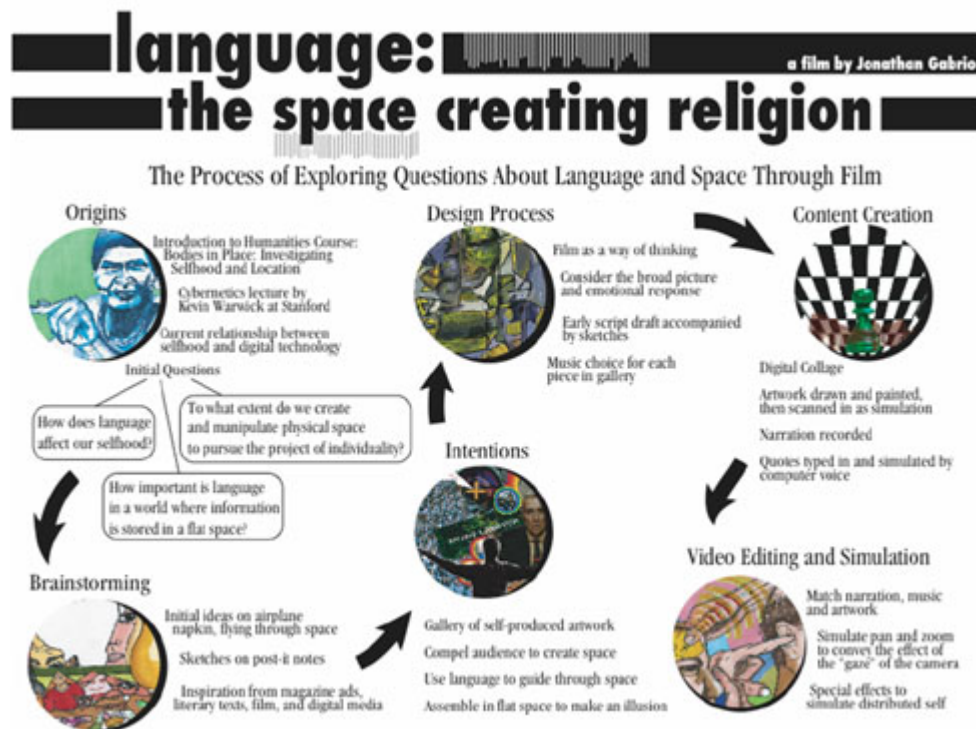


Figure 2: An example from the knowledge domain of 'religion' from Stanford University (<https://web.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/urp/SURP/surpawards04/pages/gabrio.htm>).

## Forget me not:


Do medical students want to know more about the lives of body donors? : A pilot study

*Faye Bennett, Leeds Institute of Medical Education, University of Leeds, UK*

Email: [umfsib@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:umfsib@leeds.ac.uk)


### 1. Why?

- Medical students work with body donors in the anatomy laboratory
- Body donors remain anonymous
- Learning more about body donors could promote professional development
- This is the first reported study of its kind in the UK



### 2. Aims

- Do medical students want to know more about body donors?
- What information do the medical students want to know?
- When and how would medical students like this information?




### 3. Study Design


Focus groups with:

- First year medical students
- Second year medical students
- Medical students studying for an intercalated BSc in Clinical Anatomy

Analysis:


- Coding using grounded theory
- Determination of key themes






### 4. Findings

- The majority of medical students expressed an interest to learn more about body donors
- Information of interest included; occupation, hobbies, family, reasons for donation and medical history
- The nature of information students wished to receive was influenced by prior experience in the anatomy laboratory



### 5. Conclusions

- Medical students are interested to learn about people who donate their bodies to medical education
- Efforts should be made to obtain detailed body donor information



### 6. Moving Forward

- Interviews will be carried out with body donors
- Donor information will be made available to medical students
- A tool for measuring professional development will be designed
- Professional attitudes before and after receiving donor information will be measured















Figure 3: Example of the medical education domain ([https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1401/academic\\_skills/196/presentations\\_posters/4](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1401/academic_skills/196/presentations_posters/4)).



## Phenotypic Traits of *Plantago lanceolata* are Interrelated

Simon Harris, Asa Holland, Andy Parks, Jia Wang, Robert Zuniga, Xinyu Ma, Seth Strumwasser  
Department of Evolution and Ecology, University of California, Davis, 95616



### Introduction

*Plantago lanceolata*, the English plantain, is a perennial herb native to Eurasia. It has been introduced to many other parts of the world. Because of its wide global distribution, it is considered a model organism for studying plant population dynamics and global climate change.

PlantPopNet is a growing global network of ecologists studying the abiotic and biotic drivers of population dynamics using *P. lanceolata* as a model system. The long-term objectives of PlantPopNet are to understand the demography and life history of these plants, and the ways in which environmental factors affect phenotypic traits over time. At the Davis site, we surveyed the plant traits to add to the global collection of data on the species. With data collected from the Davis site and other sites in the PlantPopNet network, we examined trends in morphology within *P. lanceolata* communities. We hope our baseline data contributes to PlantPopNet's goals to trace the environmental effects on a globally distributed species in the face of global climate change.

### Project Objectives

Questions

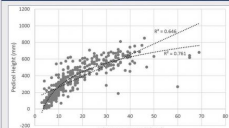
- Are reproductive and morphological traits related across populations?
- Are vegetative and reproductive morphology related?
- Are climatic factors and morphological traits related?

Hypotheses

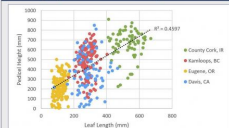
- We expected to see a positive association between inflorescence length and flower stem height.
- We expected leaf length and flower stem height to be related.
- We expected leaf size and flower stem length to scale with precipitation and temperature.

### Results

Inflorescence length positively relates to flower stem height for *P. lanceolata* populations in CA, OR, and BC



Leaf Length predicts flower stem height in *P. lanceolata*




### Discussion

- Linear relationship between inflorescence length and flower stem height in west coast populations, but stronger logarithmic relationship
  - Influence of outliers
- Linear relationship between leaf length and flower stem height
  - Variance in flower stem height decreases support for regression
  - Only one relationship between traits
- No relationship between mean leaf length and flower stem height with annual average temperature or annual precipitation
- Mean leaf width and average annual temperature strongly related, but...
  - Limited data: only four site locations; simplified climate data

### Methods

- Establish transects
- Census *Plantago* community
- Measure plant traits
- Collaborate with other sites
- Statistical analysis



### Climatic Factors and Plant Morphological Traits

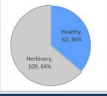
	Annual Average Temperature (°C)	Annual Precipitation (rainfall) (mm)
Davis, California	16.2	499
Eugene, Oregon	11.4	1168
Kamloops, British Columbia	10.3	2060
County Cork, Ireland	9.9	1080

	R <sup>2</sup> Values
Mean Leaf Length (mm)	0.25
Mean Leaf Width (mm)	0.86
Mean Flower Stem Height (mm)	0.20

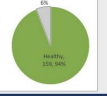
### Future Research

- Climate Change
- Latitudinal Gradient
- Herbivory

Davis, California





County Cork, Ireland



### Acknowledgements

Project Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Gurevitch

PlantPopNet Coordinator: Dr. Yvonne Buckley

Staff Student Advisor: Elm Howard

Project Founder: Anika






Figure 4: Group poster developed in view of the course Evolution and Ecology at the University of California

(<https://urc.ucdavis.edu/photo-galleries/uc-davis-academic-posters#&gid=1&pid=14>).

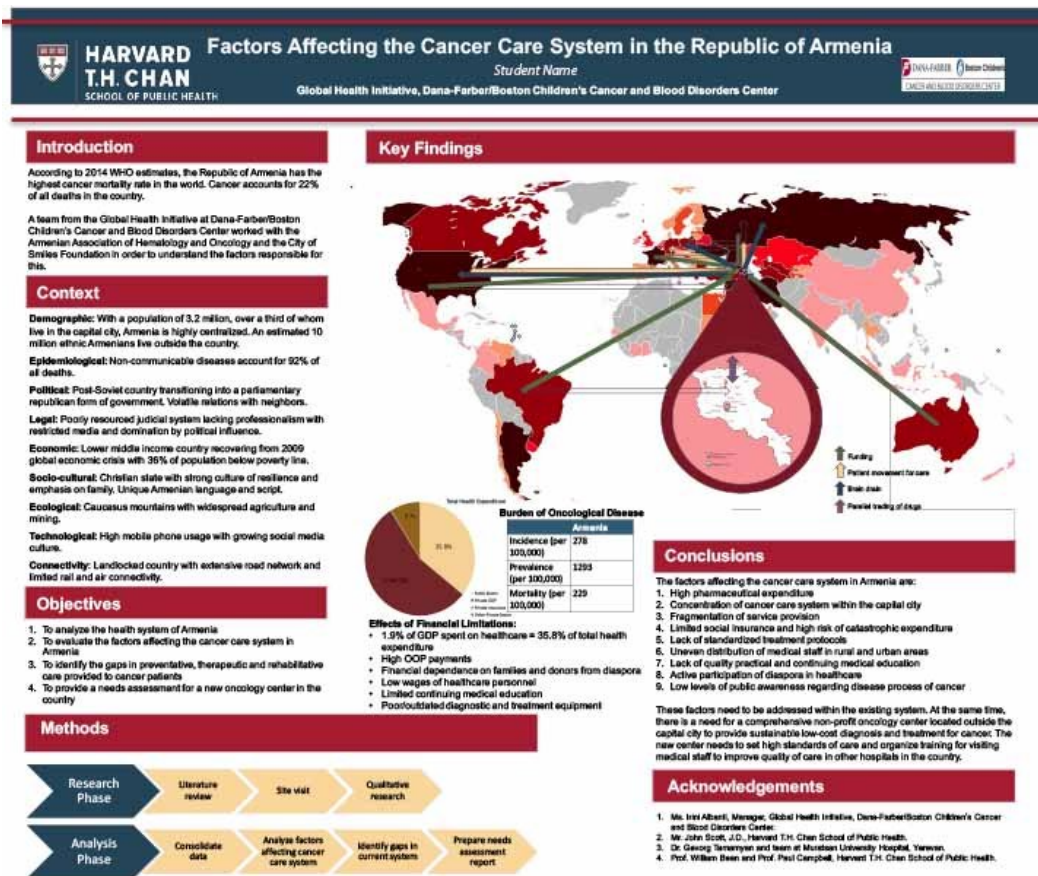


Figure 5: Examples from Harvard University, School of Public Health (<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/public-health-practice-resources/for-students/resources-for-practicum/communicating-your-practice-experience/student-posters/>).



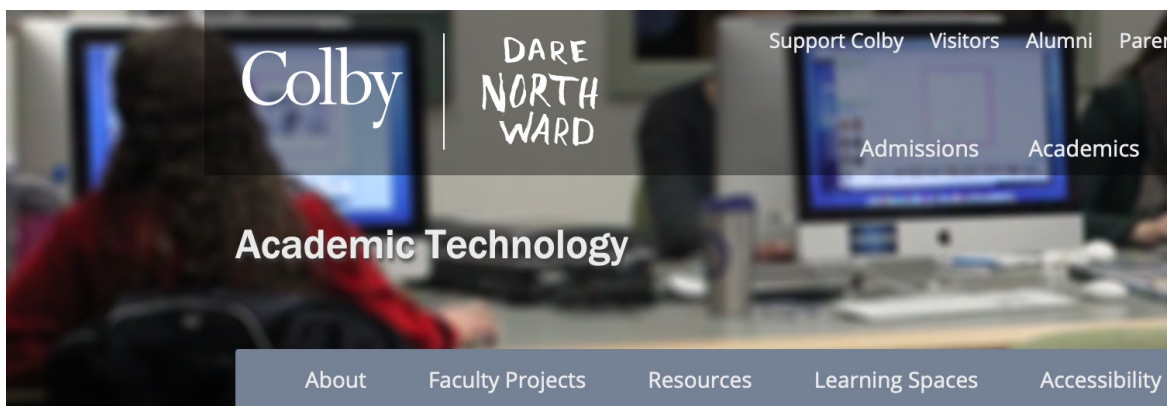


Figure 6. This example is taken from a research article where posters are used as an educational strategy in an English as a Foreign Language course ([505-1502846032.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/35051502846032)).

## Design guidelines for educational posters ▼

### ***Tools to design and develop posters***

Explore the following website to guide student's work on posters (<https://www.common sense.org/education/top-picks/apps-and-websites-for-making-posters-and-collages>)



## Student Academic Poster Guidelines

Need help making an academic poster? You've come to the right place!

(Please refer to [this page](#) if you are looking for help with submitting and printing your poster)

### Purpose

A poster is a visual summary of your project. Therefore, it should not dwell on details but rather present the big picture, preferably by graphs and images more than text. A poster thus usually explains the context, significance, method, findings, and conclusions of your project.

### ***Design guidelines***

The number of lists with guidelines to develop academic and educational posters is 'endless'. But we give some selected examples. At the end of this section, we will integrate all the guidelines in view of the checklist that will be used in view of the task related to this theme.

Hay and Thomas (1999) stress the following poster design guidelines:

**Table 1** Five principles of poster production

<b>Attention-getting</b>	Does the poster make a good first impression? Does it grab the layout, colour, title, and other devices. Getting audience attention
<b>Brevity</b>	The poster should make its point(s) concisely
<b>Coherence</b>	An effective poster makes a logical, unified statement requiring accessible to the intended audience and must be capable of 's
<b>Direction</b>	Over-complicated posters discourage and confuse readers. The
<b>Evidence</b>	The argument must be supported by accurate, referenced evidence

Figure 1. Design principles for posters (Hay & Thomas, 1999, p. 210).

Berry and Houston (1995) supplement this with the following criteria in their math posters: is there a logical structure of the poster? and is that "common thread" visually supported? are there any meaningful titles? Is the central title attractive, catchy, motivating to read the poster are the illustrations meaningful (instead of purely decorative); they are attractive to attract attention is the problem clearly outlined? is everything sufficiently compact, concisely elaborated? the illustrations are meaningful and not merely decorative is / are there any conclusion (s) provided?

Duchin and Sherwood (1999, p.206) additionally emphasize the language being used:

- is the title no longer than 10 words?
- does the language use suit the target audience?
- is the target audience familiar with the symbols, abbreviations, jargon used?
- is all recorded content necessary to convey the "message"?
- is unnecessary repetition avoided?
- is a visual language also used with a mix of text, photos, graphs, tables,...?
- is there a "way" to get even more information?

With regard to the latter, poster developers sometimes put a short text next to a poster. Others provide a QR code with which you can download the poster and / or additional information (see additional explanation via <https://www.qr-code-generator.com/qr-codes-on/posters/>). A link to the website, the CV of the "author" of the poster also fits.

Authors often put forward hints and advice on the use of color, fonts (fonts), font size, aesthetic effect. In Hay and Thomas (1999) you will find a first list of such technical advice. You can download the article here; read the pages starting on p.211. Pay attention. That article mainly looks at advice on a "scientific" poster. That is why a lot of attention is paid to components that typically belong to the reporting of scientific research (introduction, materials, method, results section...). Of course this is less important if the poster fits in

another knowledge domain. However, it is in any case important to choose a structure that fits your knowledge domain. Hay and Thomas's structure is their "common thread". So choose or have a structure chosen that suits your knowledge domain and learning goals. A final piece of advice from the authors looks at "composition". They suggest a 3 x 3 grid hidden underlying pattern. Then think about what the starting point is at this grid: from left to right from the center to the outer frames You can enhance the use of the grid by adding lines and / or arrows.

We go towards the end of this section on design guidelines by referring to the article by [Hubenthal, O'Brien and Taber \(2011\)](#). Striking in their approach is that they put forward design guidelines based on a theory; in this case the Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning (CTML van Mayer, 2009). This theory emphasizes that everyone processes information through different sensory channels at the same time; eg reading text and watching animations; view visual cues and process text. In their framework they emphasize a range of design guidelines that shift along three dimensions:

- the aesthetic dimension
- the cognitive dimension
- the protractive dimension

You recognize the criteria for *the aesthetic dimension*, because they relate to the use of color, use of images and layout in which the flow (structure, coherence, sequence) is central. Along the *cognitive dimension*, the authors emphasize the link with the learning objectives / curriculum; extent to which the reader / viewer is questioned, challenged? The extent to which explicit learning objectives are central so that a central idea emerges? Is there a balance between text and graphics that enhances the content of the message? Are the graphic elements interrelated? In the *protractive dimension*, the authors emphasize the "continuation" after using and / or viewing / experiencing the poster. The QR code mentioned above is an example of this; you can therefore retrieve additional information.

Power	Design Elements	Description	
Attractive	Aesthetics	Visual appeal of the poster including; artistic design, color pallet, layout, overall size, print quality, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourages tea</li> <li>- Contributes to</li> <li>- Attracts studen</li> </ul>
	Curricular Connection	Explicit and intentional connections to the curriculum including; broad overarching themes, process skills or individual content chunks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Posit ions poste</li> <li>- a “sciency” cla</li> <li>- Encourages tea</li> <li>- rotate with topi</li> <li>- Affords both di</li> <li>- topics currentl</li> </ul>
	Invitation to Inquiry	Uses cognitive learning theory to attract and engage learners in a minds-on way (e.g. title as question, visual analogy, or discrepant imagery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activates stude</li> <li>- cognitive proce</li> <li>- Provides a fran</li> <li>- construction of</li> </ul>
	Message	Explicit learning objectives distilled to essential ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creates purpos</li> <li>- Defines what th</li> <li>- know or believ</li> <li>- Distinguishes g</li> <li>- and visual cont</li> </ul>
	Text/Image ratio	Decrease volume of explanatory text and increase size of central imagery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduces the vi</li> <li>- initial cognitive</li> <li>- Increases appro</li> <li>- Central or icon</li> <li>- students Comp</li> <li>- pedagogical ele</li> <li>- and educationa</li> <li>- Fosters teacher</li> </ul>
Protractive	Extensions	Provide opportunities for students to extend understanding through elements outside the 2-D, static space of a poster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrates poste</li> <li>- Offloads relate</li> <li>- from the poster</li> <li>- Extends time o</li> <li>- Fosters interact</li> <li>- simulated phen</li> </ul>

Figuur 2. Graphical representation of the design-framework of Hubenthal and colleagues (2011, p.204).

### ***Some input from the humanities, arts and social sciences perspective***

Teachers often complain that guidelines are geared too much towards the sciences and health related domain. To counter this idea, we explicitly refer to guidelines and a procedure developed for these specific domains; as developed by Maryland University. The approach has a focus on research, but is sufficiently generic to be used in other ways:

<https://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/documents/DesigningPosterForHumanitiesAndSocialSciences.pdf>:

## DESIGNING A RESEARCH POSTER FOR THE HUMANITIES/SOCIAL SCIENCES

Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research

1201 Marie Mount Hall

[ugresearch@umd.edu](mailto:ugresearch@umd.edu)



### *Tools and help for designing posters*

It is always helpful to support students in designing adequate posters that fit the design guidelines and criteria. This often results in handing out 'formats' to develop specific types of posters. Examples of such formats can be found at e.g., the U.C. Davis University (<https://urc.ucdavis.edu/creating-effective-academic-posters>). More guidelines can be found at e.g., the website of the University of Kent (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/brand/visual/posters.html>).

## Undergraduate Research Center

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### Templates

Remember that a template is just a guideline and you will need to resize sections and enter headings, photos and graphic components to create a poster that will be a visually engaging communication of your research. Below are some websites with free downloadable 36" x 48" templates as well as some template files:

[Scientific Poster PowerPoint Templates](#)

[Research Poster PowerPoint Templates](#)

[Powerpoint Scientific Research Poster Templates](#)

[Posters4Research](#)

[Landscape Template](#)

[Portrait Template](#)

[Landscape Template 2](#)



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## BRAND IDENTITY

Kent Brand
Overview
The guide
20 Years in Europe
Brand concept
Writing style
Visual identity
Using the logo
Our colours
Image library
Imagery
The coat of arms
The forward slash
Presentations
Email signature
Video

University of Kent > Brand Identity

### Posters

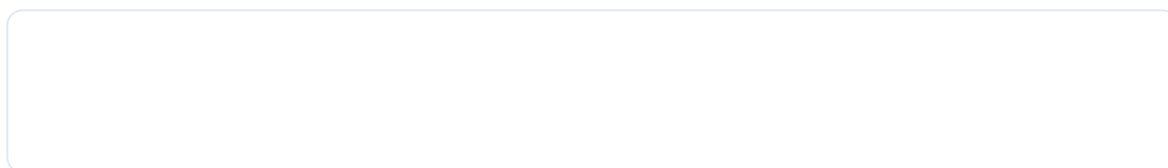
It is important that all our communications are on brand and this includes posters for internal and external audiences.

### Getting started

*Please note: The brand lite and non-recruitment templates are for internal use only. They must not be used to communicate with potential students or external audiences. All recruitment / marketing and external materials must be produced in conjunction with Recruitment and Marketing, Corporate Communications and the Design & Print Centre.*



We integrate the variety of design guidelines into a the checklist you will use in view of the task related to this theme.



The impact of using posters as an instructional strategy



To a lesser extent, empirical research is available that systematically measures the effect of poster use on educational attainment. Obviously this is difficult because the examples above mainly emphasize embedding the poster in a broader learning and instruction process.

Rosanti and Abu Seman (2019) set up an experimental design in higher secondary education and compared a group of students who studied learning goals related to economics with and without a poster. In this small study, the students in the experimental condition with the poster performed better on a knowledge processing test.

The research by Banerjee and Greene (2013) investigated the effect of designing posters on the effects of smoking and anti-smoking campaigns. A content analysis of the posters shows that adolescents have a fairly good idea of the impact of smoking and which anti-smoking campaigns are effective.

Riejos and colleagues (2001) had students develop posters in “English for specific purposes” to convey metaphors in an understandable way. The posters turned out to have a meaningful impact on the better understanding of metaphors. Reilly (2007) also uses posters in his language class (EnTaal use: adapted to target group English as a Foreign language). In his research, the posters are mainly used as video cues for words, sentences, ideas and situations. In addition, the posters are used to promote interaction between students and the teacher. Analysis of the observational data indicates that oral communication strengthens, that there is also more authentic communication, that the students are more confident, that there are fewer language errors, that students can work independently, that there is a good insight into oral language skills of pupils ...

In a comparable way, [Ahmad \(2019\)](#) researched the impact of students designing digital posters on their EFL development (English as a Foreign language). The positive impact on students' reading comprehension learning objectives can be derived from the article below.



Journ

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# Digital Posters to Engage EFL Students and Reading Comprehension

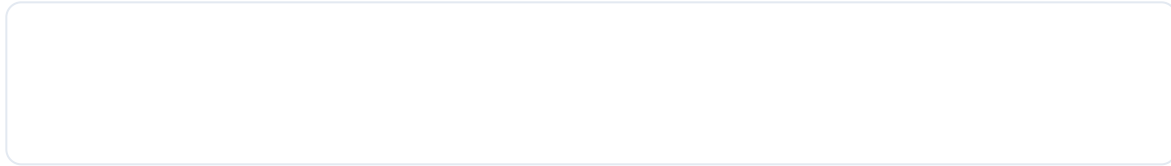
Samah Zakareya Ahmad

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doi:10.5539/jel.v8n4p169      URL: <https://doi.org/10.5539/jel.v8n4p169>

## Abstract

This study investigates the effect of digital posters on the reading comprehension of EFL students. Thirty-three 3rd-year EFL college students were divided into two groups: a control group (n = 17) and an experimental group (n = 16). Both groups were pretested on reading comprehension before the experiment and then posttested after it. For 12 weeks, participants in the control group received traditional instruction while those in the experimental group used digital posters. The results showed no significant differences between the two groups in the pre-test (U = 102.00; p > 0.05) or engagement (U = 102.00; p > 0.05), it showed significant differences in reading comprehension (U = 70.00, p < 0.05) and engagement (U = 70.00, p < 0.05). The study reaches the conclusion that digital posters significantly improved the reading comprehension of EFL students.

Of course, the effect of the posters cannot be separated from the integrated use of the posters in the broader learning and instruction setting. Nopr and Shahrill (2014) used the design and use of a poster presentation as a test basis in mathematics (triangular geometry). Based on their pre-test-post-test design, they state a significantly higher learning effect in students on a test on mathematics insights. But the attitudes and perceptions regarding mathematics of the students in the experimental condition also turned out to be significantly more positive.



## A checklist to evaluate student posters in classroom and during poster sessions

The design guidelines that were discussed earlier in this section, can be used to develop a checklist to assess posters. What we do not include in this checklist is an assessment of activities set up with the poster; e.g., the presentation of a poster during a poster session, a discussion about posters, a lesson that the students give based on the poster.... These are other approaches to educational interaction and communication that fall outside the scope of this theme. But below - at the end of this subsection - you can find a format to address these wider issues.

You can download the checklist here [Feedback\\_poster\\_ENb.docx](#). It looks like follows:

Criterion	Feedback
	Participant
<b>Attraction dimension</b>	
Visual elaboration of the poster: use of color	
Visual elaboration of the poster: fonts	
Visual elaboration of the poster: structure of the poster (3x3 grid and coherence, flow, red thread)	
Visual elaboration of the poster: meaningful illustrations	
<b>Cognitive dimension</b>	
Is there a clear central theme	
Is there a clear central learning objective	
Language use: adapted to target group, level of symbols, jargon ...	
Language use: short main title; speaking subtitles	
Language use: concise, to-the- point; no drawn-out text	
Is there a balance between graphics and text?	
<b>Protractive dimension</b>	
Is there a concrete link to information that you can reach / retrieve next to the poster?	
Absorbability (See Theme)	
Comparability (See Theme)	

If you want a 60-second approach to poster evaluation,; e.g., in the context of a poster session in your classroom, you can build on the work of the colleagues of North Carolina State University (<https://projects.ncsu.edu/project/posters/60second.html>):

# 60-Second Poster Evaluation

George Hess - NC State University - Forestry Department

## Rating Criteria - Circle rating that applies.

### **Overall Appearance**

- 0 Cluttered or sloppy** appearance. Gives the impression of a solid mass of text and graphics, or pieces are scattered and disconnected. Little white space.
- 1 Pleasant** to look at. Pleasing use of colors, text, and graphics.
- 2 Very pleasing** to look at. Particularly nice colors and graphics.

### **White Space**

- 0 Very little.** Gives the impression of a solid mass of text and graphics.
- 1 OK.** Sections of the poster are separated from one another.
- 2 Lots.** Plenty of room to rest the eyes. Lots of separation.

### **Text / Graphics Balance**

- 0 Too much text.** The poster gives an overwhelming impression of text only. **OR Not enough text.** Cannot understand what the graphics are supposed to relate.
- 1 Balanced.** Text and graphics are evenly dispersed in the poster. There seems to be enough text to explain the graphics.

### **Text Size**

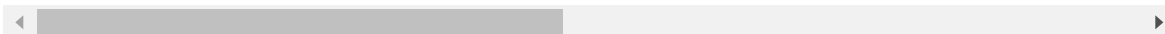
- 0 Too small** to view comfortably from a distance of 1-1.5 meters.
- 0.5 Main text OK, but text in figures too small.**
- 1 Easy to read** from 1-1.5 meters.
- 2 Very easy to read.**

### **Organization and Flow**

- 0 Cannot figure out** how to move through poster.
- 1 Implicit.** Headings (Introduction, Methods, etc) or other device implies organization and flow.
- 2 Explicit** numbering, column bars, row bars, etc.

### **Author Identification**

- 0 None.**
- 1 Partial.** Not enough information to contact author without further research. This includes missing codes or addresses.



Assignment in view of this 'poster' theme



The examples of posters that you could consult in this theme are 'colored' by the available media that students could get to work on during the publication or research.

The starting point of the assignment for this theme is to choose a learning objective. So look at your own courses and look for a theme that is currently on the agenda in your exercises, assignments, internship, portfolio ... This is the starting point for your task development. Do not forget that a 'clear' theme and 'learning objective' are criteria in the checklist for the assignment. Now imagine that you yourself are a 'student' who is taught about this theme and in function of this learning objective. You will be asked to develop a poster that will be discussed and assessed in a poster presentation with the whole class in a poster session. Keep this goal in mind, because the elaboration of your poster takes into account the poster presentation (see the protractive dimension in the criteria). Nowadays you easily use computer software for posters. Today we use a tool widely used in education to provide students with basic poster designs. It is a free tool that you can explore at [www.canva.com](https://www.canva.com). You can create your own free account from here. There is a 'teacher' and 'student' option. Choose the student option today because that is the approach we follow today for tackling the assignment: working out a poster as a 'student'.

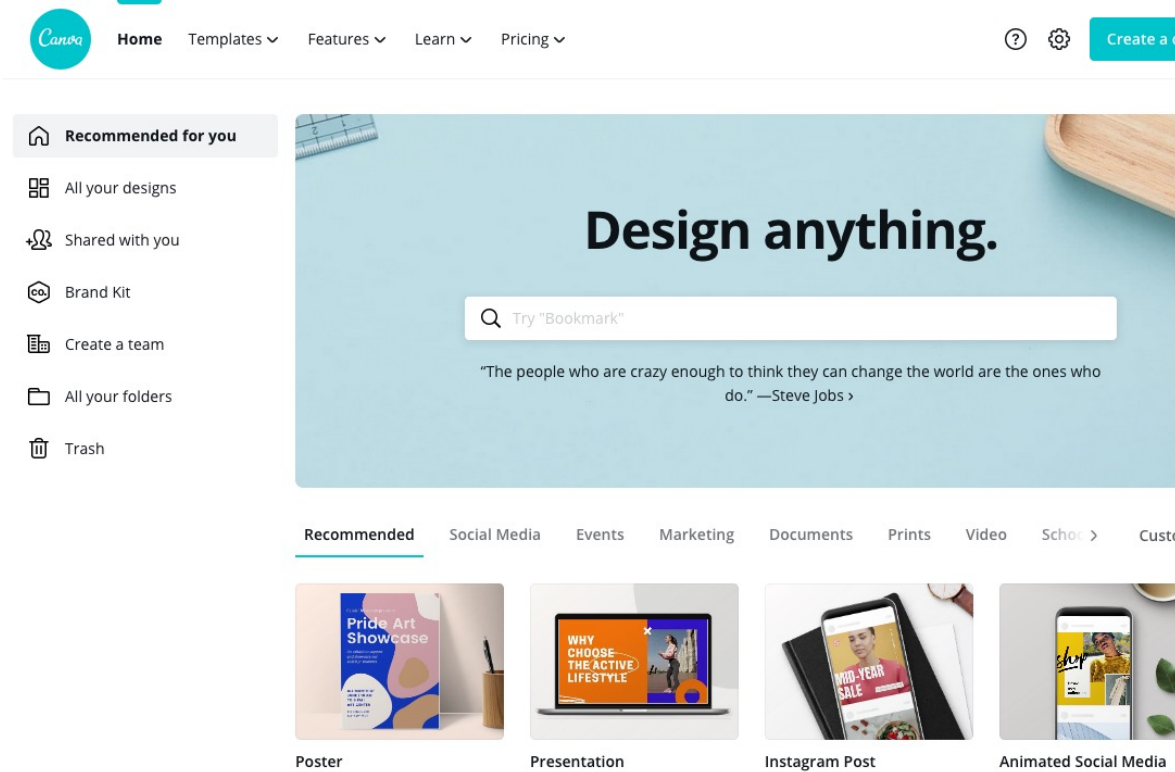


Figure 1. Opening page of the Canva website

After opening your Canva account, you get the opportunity to ....

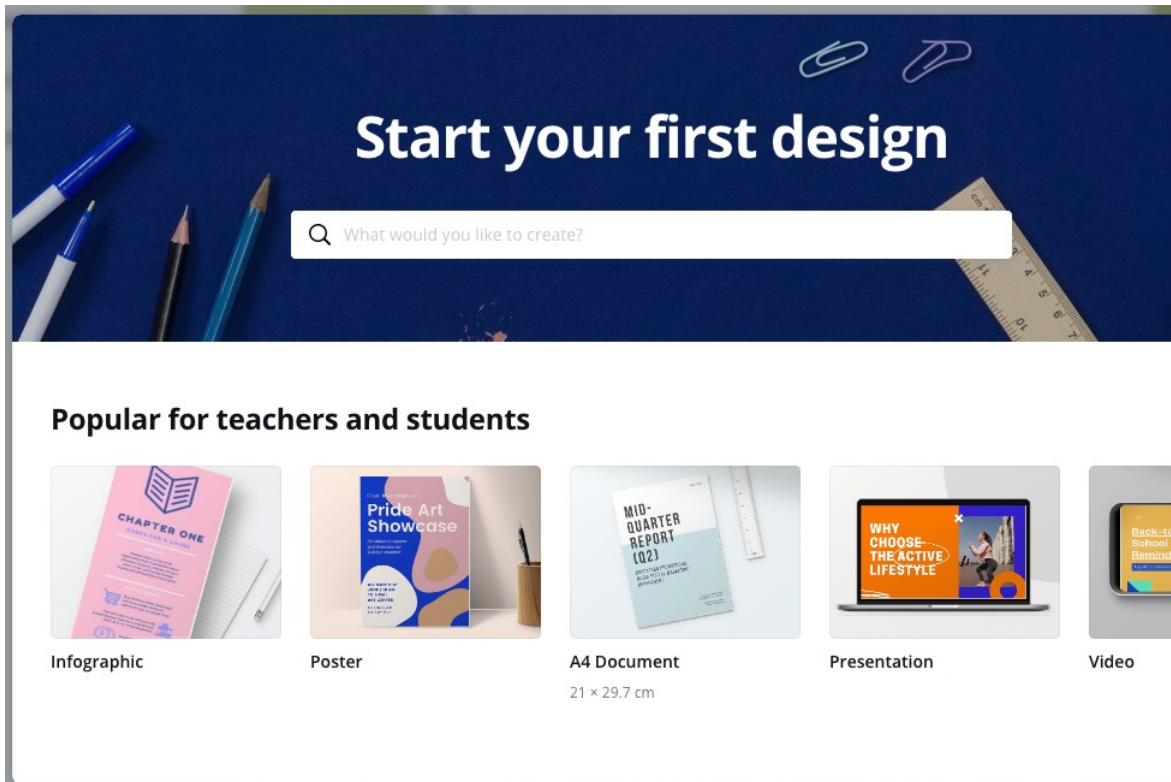


Figure 2. Options in the menu to start designing

You can immediately choose from a hundred templates. Pay attention to the design guidelines immediately when choosing a template. Because not all templates are suitable for an educational poster.

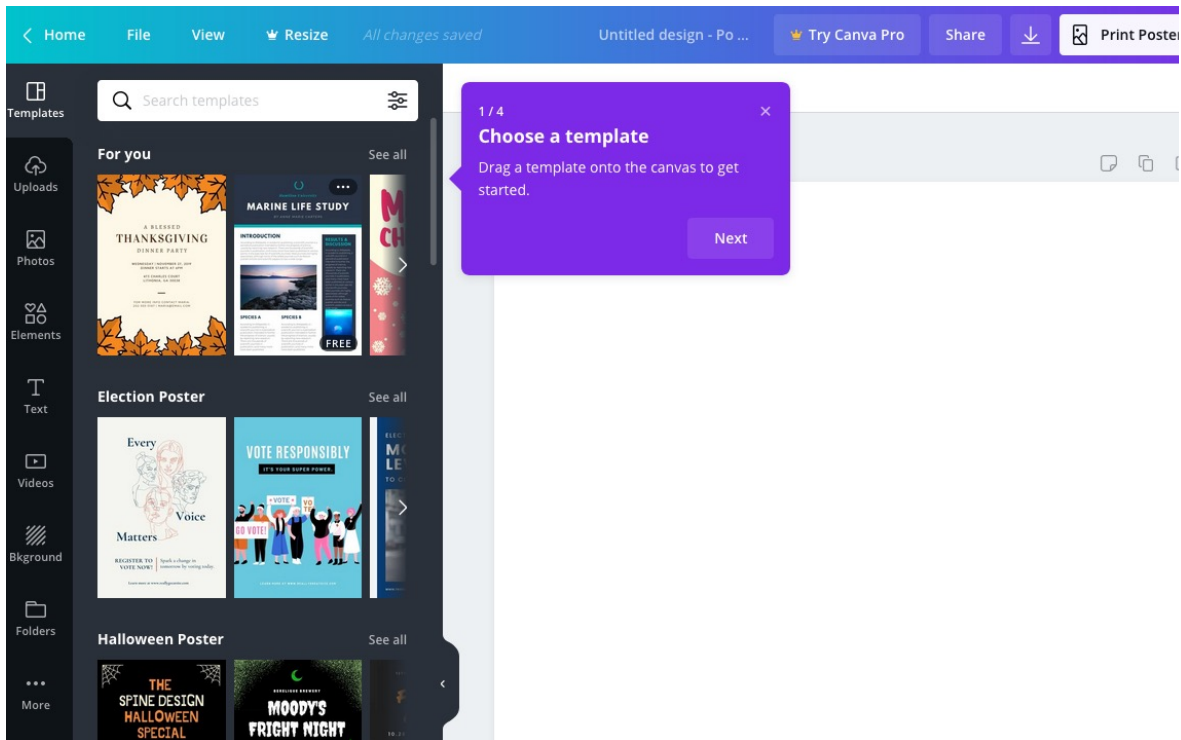
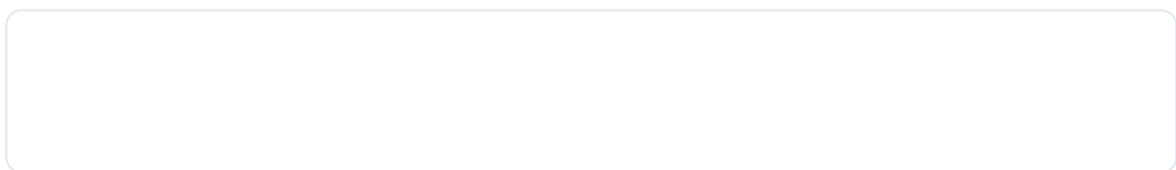


Figure 3. Choosing a template for canva

You can get started with the template. You can manipulate all parts of the poster (the 'objects'); so move, resize, colorize, replace, supplement ... So you can effortlessly add other images and figures to your own template. You can save and / or download the result. For the assignment for theme it is obvious that you download the poster and then upload it in the safe of your group. Don't forget to change the name of the file to the following format: Student name\_Poster.pdf

Good luck!



Planning 

**- Deadline to upload your poster: XXXX**

**- Deadline to upload your feedback and feed forward for one colleague: YYY**

Use the feedback form: [Feedback\\_poster\\_ENb.docx](#)

and save it as follows and upload in the system:

*"Colleaguegivingfeedback"\_"Colleaguegettingfeedback".doc*

**- Deadline for uploading your feedback to the feedback having received: ZZZ**

Don't forget to reuse the feedback form your received to add your feedback to the feedback. Change the name of the file:

Don't forget to save the file as follows

*"colleaguegivingfeedbacktofeedback"\_"colleaguwhogavefeedback".doc* and to uplod it in the system

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