What did I learn?

Spark Pre-college Internship Writing Workshop 4
July 18, 2012
Our workshop today...

- Short and sweet so you can enjoy Metro!
- Presenting your results
- Discussion of plans for Rocky Mountain, next week’s workshop and RAF visit, and an overview of the next (and last) couple of weeks.

These slides can be found on the HIRO website!
HIRO so far....

Good?  
Bad?  
Confusing?  
Out of the stratosphere awesome?

Do you have any: Questions? Concerns? Problems? Jargon?
What did I learn?

The most important part of your poster!
Presenting your results

Your results might be some comparison you have done, an instrument that you’ve installed or an application that you’ve made. They may even be “null results” showing that you weren’t able to show what you were hoping to.

What are some good ways to present what you’ve done?
Figures and Graphs

- Easy to read from 4 feet away
- Only essential information – too much clutter makes them hard to understand
- Labels!
- Descriptive axis and figure titles
- Ideally they stand by themselves (i.e. people can understand them even if they don’t read all the text)
Good and bad figures

Example from: http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/NewSite/CreatePosterGraphics.html
Diagrams

• Great way to show designs or features of your product
• Easy to read from 4 feet away
• Use arrows and labels to identify important features
• Be prepared to lead your viewer through your diagram
Good and bad diagrams

Technical diagrams have a place—but should only be on a poster if very well labeled and easy to understand!

Sometimes it's better to simplify.
Photos

• A picture paints a thousand words.
• Use arrows and labels.
• Make sure what you’re highlighting is the highlight of the photo – crop if you need to.
• Use high resolution images so they print nicely!
• Screen shots might be useful if you are developing software tools.
Ozonesonde launch in Eureka, March 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2008

Ozonesonde with temperature, pressure and humidity sensors

Photo by Bec Batchelor

Balloon filled with hydrogen

Extra balloon to allow for expansion
Tables

• Tables can be used to present data when the actual number is important (rather than the trend) or for mixed numbers and words.
• Every table should have a title or caption
• Use clear headings for each row and column to make sure data is unambiguous
• Make your table as easy for the reader as possible – use white space and sort the data to help them identify important trends
Helping your reader with tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8a. Youth Television Watching</th>
<th>8b. Youth Television Watching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of 9-year-olds who watch more than 5 hours of television per weekday</td>
<td>Percent of 9-year-olds who watch more than 5 hours of television per weekday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Example tables from http://lilt.ilstu.edu/gmklass/pos138/datadisplay/sections/goodtables.htm
Your results section doesn’t have to be labeled “Results”. It might more appropriately be called:

*The finished anemometer* or

*Application for collecting data sets*

depending on what you have achieved. But this is your opportunity to highlight what you have done.

Make it stand out!
Discussion

Sometimes your figure or diagram needs some discussion. You can have a separate discussion section, or you can just have some sentences about the figure/diagram/photo nearby. It should be clear which figure you are talking about, either from referencing a label, putting it in the same box or using an arrow.

Keep words to a minimum - if it doesn’t say something important, leave it out!
Things to remember

• Your results are the most important part of the poster - let them dominate!

• It is better to have a couple of good, well labeled and easy to read figures than lots of small, hard to understand ones

• Color on your poster is good, but make sure it isn’t too ‘busy’ so that it’s hard to read

• Some people are color-blind. Try to use symbols or line styles as well as colors to differentiate lines
Homework

- Think about how you’re going to present your results. Are there pictures you need to take? Software packages you need to learn? What might you like to show?

- If you have lots of results, think about what the most important ones are to contribute to your “story”

- Start making figures/diagrams etc now!
Trip to RMNP with SOARS is on Friday!

Meet at the front desk at noon to catch the bus. Do not be late or you will be left behind!

Bring lunch (or eat beforehand), plenty of water, sunhat & sunscreen and some warm clothes (conditions can change quickly in the mountains)
• There will be two groups once there - one for some hiking and one for some light exploring.
• The bus will depart RMNP at 4:30 and go to Estes park for some sightseeing/shopping etc.
• The bus will depart Estes Park at 6 pm sharp and be back in Boulder about 7.
Next week

• Wednesday 9 - 11: our normal writing workshop – Conclusions and Abstracts. We will also start writing an abstract for putting into the EWSS. You’ll have \( \frac{1}{2} \) a page. Bring your notes and something to write on!
Research Aviation Facility

• Wednesday 12:30-4 pm: Visit to the Research Aviation Facility. 4 to meet Nancy at 12:30 pm, the rest to meet at 1 at the front entrance (volunteers?).

• Schedule:

  1:30 - Arrive at RAF
  1:30-2:15 - tour of facility
  2:15-2:30 - informal talk by Julie Haggerty and Kelly Schick
  2:30-3:15  Talk by Amelia Earhart, followed by questions
  4 pm Back at Foothills
Next week continued

- Thursday 9 - 12, 1 - 4: Poster preparation help available FL2-2006
- Friday 8 am: Completed abstract for EWSS due to me!
- Friday 12 - 4: Poster preparation help available FL2-2006 - aim to have a draft done by the end of this session to show your mentor and discuss!
The following week

- Tuesday 7/31 Poster must be to me by 8 am for printing.
- Wednesday 8/1 9 - 11 am: Writing workshop - poster presentation and practice
- Thursday 8/2 2pm CG auditorium: Poster session!