GEOGRAPHY 503: Fundamentals of Geoenvironmental Research
Research Proposal Poster Assignment
Draft poster – 10 points – due November 28
Poster presentation – 25 points – due December 5

Background
Professional posters are one of the most common means of presenting your work to others. They are used at conferences, workshops, trade fairs, and other venues. Poster presentations are required of SU students who receive a university research grant. Using digital layout software and high quality, large format plotters, you can convey a wealth of information in minimal space. The Department owns a 42-inch HP DesignJet 5000 plotter that you can use to print posters for conferences or other professional presentation.

Key elements of this assignment
1. Your poster should convey the key elements of your research proposal, including:
   - Title, author, and affiliation (i.e., Graduate student, Department of Geography-Earth Science, Shippensburg University)
   - Abstract
   - Introduction
   - Background / Literature review
   - Research questions
   - Study area (maps, photographs, figures!)
   - Methods (including any preliminary data—figures!)
   - Expected results
   - Research timeline
   - Summary / Conclusions
   - References cited (all literature must be properly cited—in the narrative and in the “References Cited” section).

2. Content and graphics are equally important. In order to convey your information effectively:
   - Use a format up to 60” wide x 42” high. Use at least 1” of white margin around the edges and contain everything within a neat line. Power Point is the simplest software to use for poster layout, but feel free to use other software if you prefer.
   - Use a good balance of graphics and text. Graphics should include photographs, maps, charts, and diagrams. Minimize the amount of information in tables. Minimize graphics downloaded from the Internet—and properly cite the source of any such graphics. Make sure graphic resolution can support the final size you select. Every graphical element should have a label (e.g. Figure 1. Study area map indicating air quality sampling sites and truck terminals larger than one million square feet.)
   - Develop a good flow of ideas. The reader should naturally move from one section of the poster to the next in appropriate order. Consider using numbered blocks, arrows, etc.
- Text should be large enough to read from 5 feet away from the poster. Use a minimum 48 point font for titles and headings and a minimum of 24 point for text (longer blocks of text should use an even larger font size, such as 32 point). Use a clear font, such as Arial, Helvetica, etc. Minimize long paragraphs. Bullet lists are sometimes more appropriate.
- Carefully proofread the entire document before you print it and hand it in.

3. Your draft poster (due November 28) should be submitted electronically and on paper copy (8.5 x 11 inch). If you reduce your poster to this size, you should be able to easily read all text and figures. Print enough copies to distribute to the entire class (20).

4. Your final poster (due December 5) should be submitted electronically and on paper copy (8.5 x 11 inch).

5. You will present your poster (via digital projection) to the class on December 5. You will have 5 minutes to provide an overview of the key elements of your proposed research, using only the poster as a prop.