Graduate Student Symposium - Poster Presentation Judging Rubric

Audience expectation: Communicate technical work clearly to judges from a variety of engineering disciplines.

Presenter's Name:

Category	1-3 | Insufficient	4-6 | Emerging	7-9 | Developing	10-12 | Excellent	Score
Purpose, Context & Significance	The purpose or central question is difficult to identify. Limited context is provided, and the importance or relevance is unclear.	The purpose is identified, but important context or connections are not clearly explained. Some explanation of why the work matters is provided.	The purpose and context are clearly communicated. The presenter explains why the work is important and connects it to a broader problem, need, or area of study.	The presenter quickly establishes a clear and compelling purpose, provides the context needed for a broad engineering audience, and effectively communicates why the work matters and its broader significance.	
Technical Communication & Accessibility	The explanation relies heavily on specialized terminology or assumes significant prior knowledge. Audience members outside the field would have difficulty understanding the work.	Some technical concepts are explained effectively, but the presentation frequently relies on jargon or discipline-specific knowledge without sufficient explanation.	Technical concepts are communicated clearly and accurately. Specialized terminology is explained when necessary, and the presentation is generally accessible outside the presenter's discipline.	Complex technical concepts are communicated with exceptional clarity and accuracy. The presenter translates specialized information for a broad engineering audience without oversimplifying the work.	
Research Story & Key Takeaways	The approach, results, or conclusions are unclear or disconnected. It is difficult to determine the main takeaway.	The major components are presented, but connections among the problem, approach, results, and conclusions are sometimes difficult to follow.	The presenter creates a clear narrative connecting the problem or question, approach, key findings, and conclusions. Primary takeaways are easy to identify.	The presenter tells a concise and compelling research story. The problem, approach, meaningful findings, and conclusions build logically, and the audience understands what was learned and why it matters.	
Poster Design & Visual Communication	The poster is difficult to navigate or read. Text, figures, graphics, or organization interfere with understanding.	The poster communicates basic information but may contain excessive text, unclear organization, difficult-to-read elements, or visuals that are not fully integrated.	The poster is clear, professional, and visually organized. Figures, graphics, data, headings, and text effectively support understanding.	The poster presents a clear and compelling visual story. Information is intentionally prioritized, easy to navigate, and readable; visuals help audiences outside the discipline understand key takeaways.	
Oral Presentation & Audience Engagement	The presenter has difficulty explaining the work without relying heavily on the poster or technical terminology. Responses to questions are unclear.	The presenter provides an understandable overview but may struggle to communicate concisely, engage the audience, or adapt explanations in response to questions.	The presenter communicates clearly and confidently, effectively guides the audience through the work, responds thoughtfully to questions, and maintains engagement.	The presenter provides a polished, engaging, and concise explanation; adapts the level of detail to the audience; and answers questions in ways that further clarify the work and its significance.	
				TOTAL SCORE (maximum 60 points)	**0**

What did the presenter communicate particularly well?

What is one suggestion that could make the research or its significance clearer to a broad engineering audience?