12th Annual First Year Student SHOWCASE

Do I have to design my own poster?
No: the layout and poster template are already designed for you! This includes the color scheme, suggested headers, and logos. However, you should customize the template to fit your research.

Do I need to buy my own poster board, and am I responsible for printing/mounting it?
We will provide you with the poster board, and print and mount it for you. This means that your poster will be ready to go for you and your group when you arrive at the Showcase on 12/11.

What makes a good poster?
A good poster is visually engaging and quickly communicates important aspects of your work.
• Convey the main points through clear and descriptive section headings.
• Try to use bulleted text or concise sentences to make it easier for the reader to process the information.
• Balance the text with high quality charts/photos that highlight your main message/s.
• See https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/guidelines-poster-presentations for details on how to create a good poster.

How do I ensure that my poster graphs/pictures are high quality?
For a better quality, we recommend you use the PowerPoint "insert-picture" function rather than "copy-paste." Excel charts have to be saved as images (jpg, png) before inserting them into the presentation. To test the quality of your image, view it at 100%. If the image looks pixilated (and web images usually do), it will also be pixelated in the poster print. In this case, try to use an image that is higher in resolution.

What do I do when my poster is done?
After your professor reviews the poster, s/he emails us the ppt file no later than the submission day. Once we receive the poster, we will send a confirmation email shortly.

Can I revise my poster once it is submitted?
Not really. However, if your poster has not yet been reviewed and printed, you might be able to submit an updated version.
Who will be at the showcase?
The showcase is a celebration of your work in your first semester. College leaders, professors, staff, and many other first-year students will be there to meet you and learn about your research. So, you will have a mixed audience of peers and members of the college community. Presenting is not only a way to share what you have learned, it is also a great opportunity to meet people and learn about classes, programs or research opportunities you may want to pursue in the future.

What should I wear to the showcase?
You should plan to dress business casual. This includes dress pants, dress shirts, blouses, business skirts, and button-downs. You don’t need to wear a suit, but you should dress for an important professional event.

Do I have to check in for the event?
Yes, check-in starts at 12:45 pm in the Atrium. Pick up your presenter badge and showcase pin there, then head upstairs to Hound Square and Mezzanine to locate your poster.

Am I responsible for poster set-up?
No. Posters will be set-up in advance and peer success coaches and staff will be available to help your group locate their presentation. You are responsible for preparations to present the material and your research to anyone who visits your poster.

How much time do you have to present at the showcase?
All students present their work simultaneously, so you and your group can plan how to share presentation time. For instance, you may decide to visit posters of your classmates for the first 25 minutes, then present your own poster for the second 25 minutes. At least one group member should be at your poster for the duration of the event.

Will the showcase event be filmed or photographed?
Yes. As with many John Jay events, we will be photographing the event. We want to celebrate your research and knowledge, and exhibit your success for future first-year students.

Will there be refreshments?
Yes. You can pick up a bottle of water and snack at check-in.

Do I have to stay for the entire showcase?
The showcase is for the duration of Community Hour on 12/11. You should plan to stay the entire time.

Is it mandatory that I present even though I’m working with a group?
You should plan to contribute during your presentation even if you are presenting with a group. This is a great opportunity to speak in front of small groups without all eyes on you. You can practice public speaking and gain confidence in your abilities to share important information.

What if someone is missing from my group or I am absent on the day of the showcase?
If someone is absent, your group should still present. Your professor may have class requirements related to showcase presentations. Please check in with them so you know how the showcase can impact your grades.

What if someone picks the same topic as my group?
There will likely be overlap with topics, and that is OK! Your job is to bring a unique angle to your topic and present your findings based on research and data that you have collected for this project.

I want to use my showcase presentation as a resume entry. What format should I use?
You will need the presenters’ names and title of your poster to create your entry. This information can go in a presentations section. Here’s an example of how to format your poster presentation on your resume: