

Presenter FAQs

What is the format for presentations at the Celebration?

For panel talks and performances: You will be assigned to a one-hour panel with other presenters who have researched similar topics. You will have 8 minutes to present your material. After all the presenters on your panel have presented, there will be a question & discussion time. We will provide a PC laptop on which you may show PowerPoint slides or video. You will be required to provide presentations or links to video ahead of time so that we can pre-load them on the laptop.

For poster presentations: You will be assigned a number. Come to the Great Hall at least 15 minutes before your assigned session time, bringing your poster with you. You may come as early as 11 am if your schedule does not allow you to come immediately before your presentation time. Your poster should be no larger than 48 inches (wide) by 36 inches (tall). It does not need to be mounted. We will provide an easel and a board with your number on it, as well as pushpins for you to hang your poster. You will remain by your poster to answer questions throughout your session time. You must pick up your poster by 4 pm; any posters that are left behind will be recycled.

How do I make an effective poster to display my research?

A poster should include enticing images as well as clearly stated short descriptions of your research subject or question, your methodology, your results, and the implications of your results including the next steps you or someone else could take to push the work further. For additional tips, there are a large number of online resources available:

- The Carolina Population Center has an [excellent set of resources](#) on poster design, poster templates, and even a [video](#) about creating effective posters.
- Here is a [catalog of poster design and presentation resources](#) from the UNC Libraries.
- The American Historical Association [offers tips](#) on designing posters.
- The Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium has written a helpful guide providing general advice on poster presentations entitled [The Basics of Poster Design](#).
- Michigan State University provides tips for [creating effective posters](#).

How do I print a poster?

We cannot recommend specific vendors, but many students use [Student Stores Print Stop](#). Other students have used [PhD Posters](#), an on-line service with delivery to the Health Science Library. [Poster Smith](#) is another option. We recommend getting your poster printed at least ten days in advance in case you run into problems.

How do I do an oral presentation?

Your oral presentation should be 8 minutes long and should introduce the audience to the research topic, outline your research question and the methods or tactics you used, then present the results of your research. Make sure to discuss the implications of your research and what you or someone else might do next to take the research further.

Many people find that PowerPoint or video presentations can help make their research clearer or more engaging. This is a good way to include charts or graphs, photos, diagrams, and other support materials, but don't use a PowerPoint just to write out your presentation!

Practice your presentation several times to make sure you are comfortable speaking and that your presentation is not too long. You can practice in front of your friends, with one of your instructors, or even your pet! The important thing is that you practice out loud.

There are many online resources that can give you more suggestions:

- Here are [10 Simple Tips for Making Good Oral Presentations](#).
- Michigan State University provides tips for [creating effective posters](#) as well as a tutorial about giving [effective oral research presentations](#).

What if I can no longer participate in the Celebration?

If you can no longer participate at your assigned time, please let us know as soon as possible at our@unc.edu. Even if you get sick the day of the Celebration, it is helpful for us to know that you will not be there.

If you find that your research project has changed, please email us as soon as possible. If we know early enough, we may be able to accommodate your changed research in the program.

How should I acknowledge support I have received from OUR?

You should list any support from OUR, like Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships or travel grants, either by text on your poster or PowerPoint or verbally in your panel presentation. You can find full details, including suggestions for wording, [here](#).