Instructions for Posters

The posters will be a group project. You will need to work closely with each other so make sure that you have each other’s email address to set up meetings and discuss ideas. The Posters will be worth 20% of the class credit so you should plan on putting 20% of your effort into this project. The format used at most scientific meetings in which most information is propagated is in the form of posters. So for those of you headed toward a scientific career, this will be a preview of what to expect.

Deadlines
You should have a topic chosen by Oct. 15th. Let me know what your topic is by this date. I will have to approve it, also I will need the title for my records.
Posters will be mounted for viewing by the rest of the class at an evening Poster Session late in Nov. at Union South. I will announce the day and time when this is arranged with the Union.

Format
The posters should consist of the following parts:
A Title which tells what the poster is about. This is important because this is the main thing that will attract people to read it. Be creative here! Also make it big enough to be easily read at a distance of 25 feet or so.
An Abstract a brief summary of the goals and main conclusions of the poster
An Introduction which gives the background and context of the topic. It should describe why the topic is important and how it fits into the larger context of “Life in the Universe”.
A Discussion or Data Section that describes the evidence that supports the conclusion(s) you wish to make.
A Summary or Conclusion Section that gives the main conclusions of the poster and explains how or why the supporting evidence given in the Discussion or Data section supports the conclusions. Conclusions should be well reasoned.
A List of References or Sources from which information was used in constructing the poster. This should not be a single source. There should be a minimum of 5 sources.

Graphics are very important for an effective poster so you should try to present effective graphics (images, graphs, sketches, etc.) in each section (especially the discussion or data section and the summary section) that support the conclusions.

Layout
It is very important for a poster to be formatted so that the reader can easily follow the chain of thought. Make it clear what follows what in the logical chain of development of the topic. Label or number the figures (graphics) and tables and use the same number in the text when describing them. Figures should have a caption that explains what they are and why they are there. You have a limited amount of space, so plan very carefully what figures support the conclusions best.
Don’t clutter with a lot of irrelevant stuff! If not relevant, don’t use it!

**Grading**

I will come by each poster and evaluate each one. Every group will also be asked to examine and evaluate three other posters using a standard set of criteria that I will hand out. Grading will consist of averaging my evaluation with the evaluations of the other three groups that have evaluated a given poster. I will announce in class when we can get a room in Union South for this and will also hand out the evaluation forms before the presentations.