Posters provide a way to highlight what individual students are doing, as well as to inform others about the research being done in the department. Many institutions, organizations, and conferences sponsor a research poster session, and students should be encouraged to submit their work. Articulating research goals, activities, and project significance contributes to the student’s understanding and involvement in the research project. The faculty mentor instructs students that a research poster presentation must clearly and effectively communicate the results of their research to a particular audience in a format that invites interaction and discussion. Poster content and organization will vary, depending on the project type and development stage.

**Primary Skill:**
Communication

**Description:**
Students create and present a research poster at some venue and answer questions about their research project. The poster contains an abstract, statement of purpose, results, and conclusions.

**Audience:**
All research group members. The task can be assigned to an undergraduate or graduate student or a group.

**Deliverables:**
A poster and set of questions.

**Benefits:**
For the student, benefits include the opportunity to practice asking good technical questions, develop a higher level thinking skill, and acquire knowledge about other research projects. For the poster author, the benefits are gaining ideas on how to improve the articulation of his or her research and how to advance its direction.

**Challenges:**
(1) Assigning the groups in a way that ensures a good student mix with varying research experience levels; (2) ensuring that the poster discussion is constructive, and (3) structuring the groups so that all members participate and reach consensus.