



+ Overview

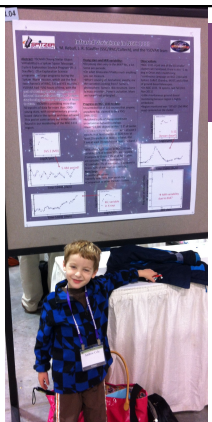
- You *will* be exhausted.
- You *will* be over-stimulated and under-caffeinated.
- **SO IS EVERYONE ELSE.**
- You will not understand everything.
- **NEITHER WILL EVERYONE ELSE.**

+ Pay attention to your body

- *Hydrate.*
- Stop and eat.
- May wish to carry protein-based snacks.
- *It's ok to stop* and take a rest if you need to.

+ Presentations

- There will be a lot of talks
 - Some plenary (designed for everyone to attend at once).
 - Some rapid-fire parallel sessions (going in and out is expected; try to do so as quietly/politely as humanly possible).
- There will be a lot of posters
 - These change daily.



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You will wish you can get away with this...
GO AND TAKE A TIME OUT IF YOU NEED TO. Sleep, go for a walk.

+ Look with a critical eye

- Not everything you see or hear at this meeting is correct!
- Part of your job as a scientist is to see if what the other scientists are presenting seems correct to you.
- (Certainly, people aren't knowingly presenting wrong things, but often a conference presentation is a 'test flight' for new work that may not be completely thought out.)
- 2018: You will be presenting next year! What works in a poster? What doesn't?

+ **Bad poster bingo**

Different parts of poster don't line up	Boxes within boxes	unpro- fession- alizing	More than three typefaces	Long-winded title
Gradient fills in coloured boxes	Big blocks of text	Photographic background	Unlabelled error bars on graphs	Pixelated pictures
More than five colours	Institutional logos bookending title	Free space	ALL CAPITALS	Text with shadows, outlines, or bevels
Abstract	Underlined text	Comic Sans	3-D graphs	Checking tablet or phone during presentation
Tables showing data that could be in a graph	Poster does not fit on poster board	Comic Sans (it's that annoying)	Objects almost touching or overlapping	

By Zen Faulkes, betterposters.blogspot.com
 Inspired by: <http://www.manicommetter.com/bad-presentation-bingo/>

+ **The community (muggles and astronomers) is welcoming... for the most part. ☺**

+ **Ask questions!**

- Astronomers *love* talking about their research like muggles like talking about their children. (→)
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS.** You don't even have to preface it by "I'm a high school teacher, and ..." just ask. If they pitch the answer too high, then you may wish to explain where you're coming from. They may read your nametag and ask.
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS.** Especially if there is a youngish person standing by a poster, they will be **THRILLED** to explain what they're doing. *You may have to beg them to stop.*



+ **Art mimics reality**

- Sadly, there are some Sheldon Coopers. (And Amy Farrah Fowlers.) (= socially inept, arrogant)
- Sadly, there are also some Howard Wolowitzes (prior to his relationship with Bernadette). (=skeevey)
- **MOST** of us are closer to Leonards: Well-meaning, polite, social, smart, happy to share, respectful.
- Use your common sense. Back off if you get a strange vibe. **STUDENTS: TRAVEL IN PAIRS.**

+ **Politics ...**

- In general, this is a professional setting. That means stay away from politics (and religion)!
- There is a recent article about the political leanings of scientists that asserts that astronomers are the most liberal among all the sciences (which are already more liberal than the general population).
- That, plus everyone is coming back from holidays in which they had to be polite to relatives. People may forget the rules of professional behavior (and may just assume you are like most of the others here).

+ What to expect

- Talks – largely: long & plenary, or short & parallel
 - Some aimed at undergrads and/or amateurs and/or other newer folks (look for these!)
 - Some press conferences (may want to look for these)
- Posters – NITARP teams and much, much more
- Booths – industry, missions, publishers, archives
- Typically, this meeting has been >3000 people.

+ How to figure out what to do

- Try the NITARP AAS worksheet!
- Collaborate with others!
- There is an app (“Guidebook”).
- There is a booklet you get when you pick up your nametag.
- There is a website.
- I still think the block schedule is still the easiest (Lo, I am OLD).
- How to read the block schedule ...

Intro to the AAS

- The AAS can be overwhelming so take it one bit at a time
- Drink lots of water
- If you get tired...find a place to sit down or go back to your room and rest
- The more tired you are the less you will absorb
- Talks and Posters are the main way information is exchanged
- The talks are either 5 minutes or 15 minutes for dissertation talks followed by questions
- The posters are put up in a big hall and arrayed by category

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How to read a science poster

VG

How to read a science poster

Don't!

VG

How to read a science poster

Don't!

If one of the poster authors is standing nearby
Ask them for their quick explanation

VG

NASA JPL **How to read a science poster in the absence of one of the authors** **NITARP**

Read the title → **Spitzer and DIRBE Studies of the Infrared Background**

← **Based on the level of jargon decide if you want to proceed**

VG

NASA JPL **How to read a science poster in the absence of one of the authors** **NITARP**

Read the abstract →

← **If the abstract doesn't grab you then you probably want to skip the rest of the poster**

VG

NASA JPL **How to read a science poster in the absence of one of the authors** **NITARP**

Look at the figures and captions →

← **Based on those you should be getting an overall sense of what the research is about**

VG

NASA JPL **How to read a science poster in the absence of one of the authors** **NITARP**

← **Read the summary/conclusion**

← **With your previous knowledge and the summary/conclusion you should now have a full sense of what this research is about**

VG

NASA JPL **How to read a science poster in the absence of one of the authors** **NITARP**

← **If you want to know more, read the rest of the poster**

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