Semester Observing Project Project Presentation Guidelines

Your Semester Observing Labs will be presented in a "Poster Session" in class on Wednesday, May 7. You should follow the directions below. Keep in mind that **each individual lab has its own required elements**, which are laid out in the project descriptions on the course website. You will be expected to (and graded on whether you) address each of the required elements specific to the project you chose.

Poster Requirements

Text on your poster should be typed (except for equations/calculations which you can hand write if you prefer). You should include LOTS of pictures/charts/diagrams, which you can use to talk your instructors and classmates through your project. The sections below are required, but with the exception of the "Abstract", they do not need to include lots of text. Pictures, diagrams, charts etc. will be much more revealing visually.

1) A Title and your name at the top of the poster
2) An "Abstract" describing what you set out to do and summarizing your key results.
3) A "Background" section describing the phenomenon you observed (what causes it physically?)
4) A "Procedure" section describing what you did **in detail such that any of your classmates could reproduce your experiment.** You may wish to bring in any equipment that you used (digital camera, astrolabe, etc.) to demonstrate.
5) A "Results" section. This is where you should put your results/final product. Any data you collected should be presented in the form of a table. You should also sketch out any calculations you did so that you can walk people through them. This is also where you should put and sketches/pictures/diagrams you constructed.
6) A "Conclusions" section. Here you should describe whether you were surprised by any of the results. Did they match your predictions at the beginning of the experiment? If you were to redo the experiment, what would you change?

Grading

This will be factored into your lab grade and will be worth *twice the number of points of a regular lab.*

You will be expected to stand by your poster for half of the class period to answer the questions of your classmates, instructor and evaluators. During the other half of the class period you will be expected to walk around the room chatting with your classmates about their posters. You will be HEAVILY PENALIZED for being off task during either time. You should not be texting,

computing or chatting with your classmates about topics other than astronomy except during break times.

Your grade will be based on the average scores given to you by the "evaluators" (me + a few others who will be introduced day of). They will be grading you on the following categories:

1) Scientific Methodology
    a. Was the experiment/observation set up carefully and scientifically, following all instructions laid out in the project guidelines?
    b. Would an outsider who knows nothing about astronomy be able to reproduce your experiment based on the "Procedure" section of your poster?
2) Appearance/Thoroughness
    a. Is your poster visually appealing?
    b. Is your poster complete, with all required sections present?
    c. Is the information presented in such a way that it is easy to follow? Is it clear how you derived your results?
3) Your Presentation
    a. Are you able to walk the evaluator through your experiment clearly, making it apparent that you gave both the experiment and your presentation of it thought and effort?
    b. Are you comfortable enough with your topic such that you are able to answer reasonable questions put to you by your classmates and the evaluators?