



Science
Societies

Reducing bias in the assessment of posters and presentations

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AI-generated image courtesy of Google Gemini.

Each year, scientific organizations—including the Societies—convene to share research findings, stay informed about scientific advancements, and engage with fellow researchers. Oral and poster presentations are the primary modes of research communication at these meetings. In many cases, student presentations are entered into competitive sessions that recognize excellence within their respective disciplines. Despite the importance of these competitions, clear guidelines for fair and equitable evaluation within the competitive setting are often lacking. The lack of standardized criteria, coupled with unintentional human biases, may disadvantage some presenters based on factors outside of their research and communication skills.

In October of 2024, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA hosted an [educational webinar](#) entitled “Reducing Bias in the Assessment of Posters and Presentations.” The overarching goal of this webinar was to provide information about common sources of inequity in the evaluation of scientific presentations and to offer practical recommendations for reducing bias. By promoting equitable evaluation practices, the Societies can help ensure that recognition is based on merit and that all presenters have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion events at CANVAS

Attending the CANVAS Meeting in Salt Lake City? Be sure to add our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion events to your meeting calendar:

Sunday, 3:00–5:00 pm

Special Session--Finding Your Place: Cultivating Professional Belonging Session and Mixer

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday: 7:00–8:00 am

Grounds for Connection: Coffee, Inclusivity, and Friendship

Monday, 10:00–11:30 am

Special Session--Diversity Student Poster Contest

Tuesday, 1:30–4:30 pm (ticketed event)

Cultivating Resiliency: Thriving in Science Careers, a Women in Science Workshop

Tuesday, 2:30–4:40 pm

Symposium--Special Session--Navigating the Impacts of Workplace DEI Rollbacks on LGBTQ+ Professionals

Have a question or concern, our DEI and Safe Space Advocate will be onsite for the CANVAS meeting in room 150D at the convention center. Visit

<https://www.sciencesocieties.org/canvas/attend> and click on “CANVAS25 DEI and Safe Space Advocate Information.”

Dig deeper

View the full webinar, “Reducing Bias in the Assessment of Posters and Presentations,” below:

[Register for CANVAS](#)

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