

LEADERSHIP NETWORKS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

# Interdisciplinary Poster Collaboration

Curriculum  
Resource

5



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# Poster Collaboration

An interdisciplinary poster creation activity

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Curriculum  
Resource **5**

## Themes

- Interdisciplinarity
- Cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Team work
- Student-led learning

## Description

This cross-School, multi-year level, cross-disciplinary collaboration activity was designed to improve students understanding of communities under threat from climate change. Students undertook the research and design of the poster. The process and the results were discussed with other staff and students.

The lecturers involved were the facilitator, Pamela Abuodha, an accounting lecturer and an indigenous studies lecturer. A staff member from the Learning Development unit provided assistance with poster design. The overall aim of the activity was to accurately and succinctly summarise climate change issues for vulnerable communities, such as how floods might affecting the indigenous communities living in and using low lying areas.

### **This activity helped the students to develop the following skills:**

- **Be informed** - obtain comprehensive knowledge of the economic impacts of climate change at a local scale and its effects on indigenous communities;
- **Good researcher** – skills in finding relevant literature and apply critical evaluation on the information;
- **Problem solver** - apply creative, logical and critical thinking to design their poster with supporting evidences for this activity;
- **Effective communicator** - build effective collaboration and teamwork across a range of different backgrounds and cultures; and
- **Socially responsible teamwork** - respect diverse opinions, professions and cultures.

## The activity

Students were required to:

research the material for a poster aimed at improving understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and cultures and their associated ecosystems;

Develop communication and critical thinking skills by attending the poster session and interacting with other students and teachers.

In addition to researching vulnerable communities students were asked to identify further research required to reduce the risks of climate change and develop appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures, particularly in areas with high risk of socio-cultural impacts.

The two classes involved were a third year accounting unit and a second year indigenous studies unit. Students were asked to work in groups to prepare a poster on social responses to the challenges of climate change and imagine the poster is to be hosted on the website of federal Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Students needed to organise themselves to arrange to meet with students in the other class BEFORE the poster session and get their points of view on the topic so that they could include some comparisons in their poster. Some possible questions were included in the instructions to stimulate discussion.

## Possible Questions for Social & Environmental Accounting students

What are the social, economic, political and ethical responses to the challenges of climate change?

What aspects of accounting and economics could help in ensuring equal distribution of resources during natural hazards?

In what ways can accounting and economics be applied to minimize the financial impacts of climate change?

What are the climate change impacts on indigenous people's economic welfare?

What does the future hold for climate change in terms of accounting and accountability?

Who is the community/society? Is it the nation of Australia? The environment, current generations or future generations?

If the people to suffer represent only those in the affected areas, can the accounting or tax institutions claim they have served the communities or society well?

## Possible Questions for Indigenous Peoples and the Environment students

In what ways might indigenous and local communities be more vulnerable to the effects of Climate Change than other sectors of the community?

How might this apply in Australia? Are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities actually in a worse position than other sections of Australian society?

In what ways have indigenous communities contributed to environmental protection and in so doing to combating climate change?

What capacity-building needs can enable Indigenous Peoples to make use of their traditional knowledge and to build community resilience in the face of climate change?

What capacity building can be done for the rest of society to enable a more equitable response to both indigenous knowledge and potential indigenous vulnerability in Climate Change scenarios?

# Poster Collaboration

## Learning Development

### Scie 103 climate change: the 'how to make a poster' poster

Emily Purser Learning Development, University of Wollongong

## University of Wollongong

### Why make a poster?

Posters are used for quick communication of research in a particular area. They are also ideal for communicating specialist knowledge to a general audience. UOW students are asked to make posters in many different disciplines - especially in the Sciences. They can get a message across to a new audience quickly.



random classroom moment in Scie 103

### The process

You should have no great difficulty producing a good poster if you follow these basic steps:

1. use a poster template (PPT & Word sets provided)
2. plan your overall message (the task set to complete random bits of information', but to present a clear point)
3. read the topic critically, to select key information to
4. support a clear overall poster message
5. print, review, self, pdf & submit

You're looking at a template right now, and there are others on the learning site, to get you started. If you don't like the templates provided, go Google for others - but don't use them. You can be devoted to the reading and rewording of information about issues of food security in your group's region...

The keys to a good poster are both visual and linguistic - photos, diagrams & graphics of numerical information can help you to present your data. The same time the 'story' needs to told in language that your target audience can easily digest--in 5-10 minutes.

Ask for feedback on your draft text - from friends, teachers, family - anyone. If it isn't immediately clear to a casual reader, you need to edit!

When your layout looks good & your text seems to work, print it out to double check (I don't know about you, but I invariably see more errors on paper than I do on screen...)

Finally, put both pages into one file, save as PDF & submit

### Sourcing images

You might already know 'good sources' for images, or be thinking of Google, but is it ok to use what you find there? In this task, you will be asked to find images that you intend to show your poster in a public domain. Best to get into the habit now of doing the job professionally... images, like ideas, gleaned from reading, must be properly referenced, and also need to be open source in the first place (or taken by yourself). Copyright needs to be respected. So you need to find images that are open source, or from a library that stocks images you can use for free, and which have been released for general use. Eg:

- Creative Commons Search
- Stock.schng: <http://www.stock.schng.com>

Creative Commons links you to fill and wikimedia commons, as well as other sites - make sure you do a search for CC images only. There are plenty more repository sites, but this is a good start. The main thing is to know what you're doing with what you've got - check out eg 'Shelley's guide to using images found online' <http://www.the-digital-summer-192.com>



Images available for download under a Creative Commons license

### Drafting & editing text

A poster that really works is not just a matter of neat layout and groovy graphics - important as that is (make sure you justify margins and use fonts and text sizes consistently - and choose colours well).

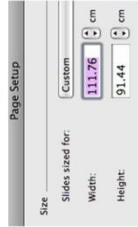
First you need to very carefully consider how much text & how many images you can fit onto your poster.

The written message on your poster needs to be succinct, to capture the main ideas, and to relate well to the images you use. You need to identify key points, & word them in a style that will both get to the point quickly & work for the intended reader.

Start drafting your text NOW, so you have time to rework it a lot of practice (rewording is fun for that reason)

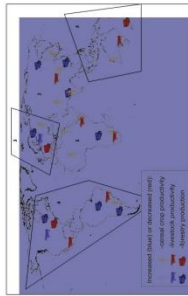
### Printing

The blank templates provided for you are set to print in a very large format. To change the print size, go to the page setup menu (print preview options) and scale to PDF & submit. Always save a poster as PDF before printing or submitting, because the formatting tends to shift a bit on another computer or platform... A PDF version of the file gives on paper what you see on screen (you're submitting this poster electronically, but if you want to print your poster, you'll need to get it printed at any copy shop, or on campus at the printery.



### References

Remember to cite your sources. See the UOW Library's style guide: <http://www.library.uow.edu.au/using-the-library>



### For further information

If you have any questions about the task or the poster, please contact the Learning Development team in class, online in a Learning Open forum discussion thread or by email -

Two A3 templates were provided. Additional resources were also available online.