

Participation in this competition is voluntary.

### Plan the work and work the plan

#### Consider visual cues such as the *Problem – Plan – Data – Analysis – Conclusion* Investigative Cycle

A well-considered plan is likely to improve the value and success of your project.

The following is not a comprehensive checklist but rather some aspects that should be considered:

1. What areas and types of studies may interest you, your team, and those viewing the poster?
  - Will your investigation be about sports, or world events, or scientific challenges, or people's attitudes, or animal behaviours, or some other area?
  - What aspect/s within the area will you focus on – why are they important or interesting?
2. What key question/s will you address. What is the aim, do you have hypotheses to test – are they well-defined, can they be quantified, and answered?
3. Can quantitative data be obtained, within your personal constraints and those of the project, that will help you to answer such questions or hypotheses?
4. Should, or could, you involve comparisons of groups (e.g. males versus females; between age groups or school classes; etc.) and in what ways may the groups be compared?
  - Including such may raise the interest and value of your project
5. How repeatable is your project – is it described adequately to allow others to repeat? If someone did so, would they obtain similar results? Are you attempting to make generalisations based on a sample?
  - How generalisable are your results? Are you measuring what you intended to measure and need to measure? How have you considered the effects of variation?
  - Why did you measure in a particular way? Has everyone involved in collecting data used the same method of measurement and is it the best measure?
  - Consider validity and reliability, along with the importance of replication.
6. Are you best to report something graphically or via text?
  - Does your graph best provide a clear message? Is it appropriate?
7. How strong are your conclusions, have you noted limitations and why you were unable to overcome them, or how you may in future?
8. Is your poster presentation adequately simple and informative? Have you used clear headings?
9. Have you considered aesthetic appeal? Why would someone walking by a series of such posters be interested in your poster?
10. Please review all documents regarding NSPC rules, judging criteria, tips, how to submit – accessible from the *Key Information* section of the NSPC website ([www.ssapostercomp.info](http://www.ssapostercomp.info)).
11. Please consider the additional resources available from the NSPC website ([www.ssapostercomp.info](http://www.ssapostercomp.info)).

Thank you for your consideration of this competition. We hope to continue to bring many valuable and enjoyable hours of learning experience to students and teachers.

**Professor Peter Howley**

**Chair of Statistical Education, Statistical Society of Australia**