

National Secondary Schools Poster Competition - Mentoring

Interested in:

- contributing some of your knowledge,
 - helping shape the future of statistical literacy in Australia,
 - generating high school students' enthusiasm for, and interest in further developing, quantitative/statistical skills towards futures in STEM and other related fields ?
- To support schools, I arrange for mentors to attend and facilitate the activity (see 'Support System' at <https://www.ssaipostercomp.info/>).
 - Mentors describe the purpose of the activity, give some real-world examples of how/where data-based investigations have occurred (usually from the mentor's experience and/or some I provide) and identify how the students will be doing similar but on a small scale.
 - Students are asked to identify areas of interest to them to possibly investigate, groups are formed and they work towards establishing aims, hypotheses, methods to collect data, present data,..., draw conclusions – present on A1 poster, with the mentor acting as a facilitator.
 - Brief Overview of the Visits
 - **1st visit:** enthuse students with real examples, discuss students' areas of interests and what one might need to present on an informative poster; facilitate their identification of a project question, aim and hypothesis which they may address through data collection; begin to consider how they may collect data.
 - **2nd visit:** discuss their data collection ideas, any potential problems and how to resolve solutions towards best data; resolve through questioning, facilitate their understanding of how to consider/address variation and perhaps obtain better data.
 - **3rd visit:** check in on data collection and ideas for analysing/presenting the information. Remember: you are a facilitator, not doing the project for them.

Entirely possible first 2 visits above are the 1 visit. Depends on duration of each visit.

- As a thankyou, mentors may receive an honorarium (\$50 giftcard).
- Please contact Dr Peter Howley, The University of Newcastle, Australia, via peter.howley@newcastle.edu.au for further details of this process – I have endeavoured to keep the details succinct and clear.
- Showing possible interest for more info doesn't mean you have to commit.

Perhaps you would like to be a regional coordinator?

Building relationships with schools is a key aim of this activity. The greater the local involvement the better for all. Activities as a coordinator may include (I can provide resources, blurbs for emails and possibly some funds):

- Promote the competition, including liaising with your own Faculty's administration and Education/other faculties to obtain mail out lists for your state/region/other schools.
- Being a mentor or getting others (including students) to be mentors to attend a school.
- Running a poster display and awards evening at your University for local schools, as is done at The University of Newcastle annually – dependent upon local involvement.
- Showing possible interest for more info doesn't mean you have to commit.

