

Poster Session

A **Poster Session** or Gallery Walk is a method in which students move around the room to visit multiple stations displaying student work. They analyze, discuss, write responses, and build on others' ideas as they circulate.

Complexity : 

Group size: small-large

Format: online, on-site (hybrid)

Learning objectives / benefits

- **Analyze information** from multiple perspectives.
- **Develop communication skills** by presenting, questioning, and giving feedback.
- Encourages **broad participation**, including quieter students.

Implementation

- **Prepare stations.** Assign students to create each station (e.g., a poster or project result) or prepare the stations yourself.
- **Organize the room.** Space stations far enough apart to prevent crowding.
- **Give clear instructions.** Explain how students should circulate and what they should do at each station—take notes, compare ideas, discuss, or answer prompts.
- **Rotate.** Students move individually or in groups, review the content, and add comments or answers.
- **Wrap up.** End with a class-wide reflection. Options include:
 - groups summarizing insights from one station
 - students sharing with a partner
 - contributing ideas to a (digital) board
 - a few students presenting to the class

Recommendations

- **Start simple.** Begin with small, low-complexity simulations before moving to multi-role scenarios.
- **Ask open-ended questions.** Focus on analysis rather than recall to deepen thinking.
- **Build on each other's ideas.** Encourage students to respond to classmates' comments to create collaborative knowledge.
- **Give meaningful roles.** Assign tasks to roaming students—discussion prompts, rubric-based feedback, or evaluation grids.
- **Prevent crowding.** Space stations well and set rotation times. Hallways can work better than classrooms because they offer more room and visibility.
- **Try online options.** Use digital boards for the posters with breakout rooms for the discussion. You can also use virtual spaces (e.g., GatherTown) to replicate stations online.

More information: Sofía Vio, TUM