

2-HOUR INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

THE ACADEMIC POSTER CHALLENGE

TWO TEAMS • TWO POLICING QUESTIONS • ONE COMPELLING POSTER
EACH

TEAM 1 Police communication & public trust

TEAM 2 E-scooter safety & policing



Can you turn research into a poster worth reading?

You already know how to search. Today is about choosing, checking and communicating evidence.

01

RESEARCH

Locate credible sources about a policing issue.

02

DISTIL

Skim and select 3–4 useful evidence points.

03

DESIGN

Combine short text, visuals and clear structure.

04

EXPLAIN

Present a conclusion and show where information came from.

120 minutes. One challenge.

Leave most of the session for active research, design and discussion.

00–10**Brief the teams**

Allocate roles and understand the question.

10–20**Poster detective**

Compare strong and weak examples.

20–45**Find the evidence**

Locate and skim 3 trustworthy sources.

45–90**Build the poster**

Create headings, diagrams and concise text.

90–105**Improve the draft**

Check claims, sources and legibility.

105–120**Gallery walk & vote**

Present and give evidence-led feedback.

Which poster would you stop to read?

Pairs: identify three strengths in the right-hand example and three problems on the left.

EVERYTHING ABOUT POLICING

Policing is very important for community and the public. Communication is extremely important because it helps a lot and many different people are affected by important issues. Police have duties and should communicate clearly and fairly in different situations. Policing is very important for community and the public. Communication is extremely important because it helps a lot and many different people are affected by important issues. Police have duties and should communicate clearly and fairly in different situations. Policing is very important for community and the public. Communication is extremely important because it helps a lot and many different people are affected by important issues. Police have duties and should communicate clearly and fairly in different situations.



LOTS OF WORDS / NO SOURCES

How communication builds trust

KEY PRINCIPLE

Listen + explain +
show respect

SIMPLE VISUAL



TAKEAWAY

A clear message, not a wall of text.

Sources: College of Policing (2025)

What MUST an academic poster contain?

Think “research you can understand from a few steps away”.

01 A question-led title

Not just “Police” or “E-scooters”.

02 Short context / introduction

Why does this issue matter?

03 Three or four evidence points

Explain key findings in your own words.

04 At least one meaningful visual

Flowchart, comparison, simple graph or image.

05 A conclusion / recommendation

Answer the question; avoid unsupported opinions.

06 A list of sources

Organisation, year, title and URL for now.

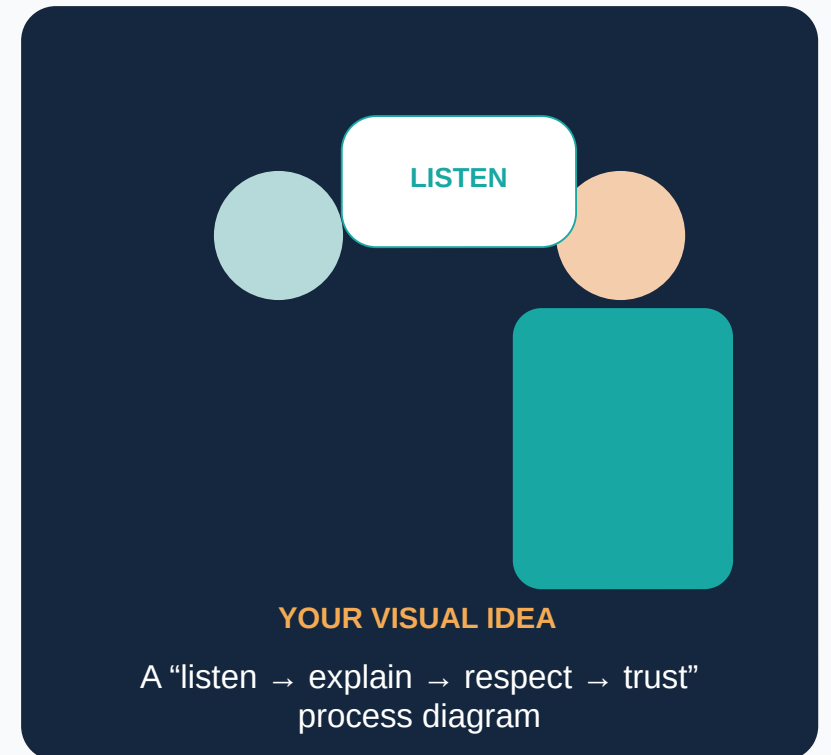
Can good communication reduce conflict and build trust?

Research question: How can effective police communication reduce conflict and improve public trust?

Explore these angles

- Active listening: Allow people to explain and feel heard.
- Verbal & non-verbal: Tone, body language, plain language.
- De-escalation: How can officers calm tense situations?
- Public trust: Fair decisions, dignity and clear explanations.

START HERE: College of Policing • public confidence guidance



How should police respond to e-scooter risks?

Research question: What risks do e-scooters pose to the public, and how should police respond?

Investigate

- Safety: Risks to riders, pedestrians and other road users.
- The law: Private e-scooters in public vs approved rental trials.
- Police options: Education, engagement and proportionate enforcement.
- Balanced view: Convenience and transport benefits vs public harm.



2025 GB FIGURE

1,477

casualties in reported collisions involving e-scooters

Think like a police officer AND a researcher

Each team: discuss your situation for 90 seconds before searching.

TEAM 1: A tense encounter

An officer speaks to a frightened member of the public. The person feels ignored and their voice becomes raised.

What might the officer change? How could you find evidence for your answer?

TEAM 2: E-scooter on the pavement

A person rides a privately owned e-scooter close to pedestrians. They argue that the journey is short and they are riding slowly.

Which issues matter? What evidence and guidance are needed?

Avoid: “I think...” alone Aim for: “The evidence suggests... because...”

Where will you find trustworthy evidence?

Look for official guidance, research findings and reliable statistics — not just blog opinions.

TEAM 1 • START SEARCHING

- College of Policing • procedural justice
- College of Policing • conflict management skills
- Google Scholar • police de-escalation trust

Suggested keywords: police communication; procedural justice; active listening; public confidence

TEAM 2 • START SEARCHING

- GOV.UK • riding an e-scooter: rules
- DfT • e-scooter casualties 2025
- Police force websites • e-scooter enforcement

Suggested keywords: private e-scooter law; rental trial; road safety; e-scooter policing UK

Find it. Check it. Skim it. Keep the best.

Apply the source evaluation techniques from previous sessions.

SEARCH

Use precise keywords and official websites.

SCAN

Read the title, date, subheadings and any summary.

CHECK

Currency • Relevance
• Authority • Accuracy
• Purpose.

EXTRACT

Record one useful fact, finding or argument.

PARAPHRASE

Write it briefly in your own words.

One high-quality, relevant finding is better than three unreliable claims.

Show evidence — do not just decorate the page

A useful visual helps the reader understand a finding or process faster.

OPTION A: A SIMPLE PROCESS

LISTEN

EXPLAIN



REASSURE

BUILD TRUST

OPTION B: A SIMPLE COMPARISON

2024



1,390

2025



1,477

GB casualties in reported collisions involving e-scooters

Source: Department for Transport (2026)

You do not need full Harvard referencing today

But every fact and image needs a traceable source — we will formalise the references later.

RECORD FOUR DETAILS

WHO? Author or organisation

WHEN? Publication year

WHAT? Page / report / article title

WHERE? Working website URL

FOR EXAMPLE

Department for Transport
(2026)

Reported road casualties: e-scooter
factsheet, 2025

gov.uk/...

Never invent a statistic, reference, quotation or image credit.

POLICE COMMUNICATION: FROM CONTACT TO CONFIDENCE

Illustrative academic poster model • Structure to learn from, not to copy

WHY IT MATTERS

How officers communicate can influence cooperation and perceived fairness.

Evidence highlights listening, impartial explanation and dignity as key elements of procedural justice.

EVIDENCE → ACTION

VOICE

Let people be heard

FAIRNESS

Explain decisions

RESPECT

Remain dignified

RECOMMENDATION

Use calm language, listen without interruption and explain the reasons for decisions.

SELECTED SOURCES

College of Policing (2025) • What works: policing with procedural and distributive justice

E-SCOOTERS: PUBLIC RISK & PROPORTIONATE POLICING

Illustrative academic poster model • Source numbers are real; the layout is a model

KEY LEGAL POINT



Private e-scooters cannot legally be ridden in public. Approved rental trials have specified exemptions.

REPORTED CASUALTIES, GB



These are casualties in collisions involving e-scooters, not necessarily caused by them.

POLICING QUESTION

What balance of education, safer behaviour and enforcement might reduce risk?

Answer using evidence, not slogans.

SELECTED SOURCES

DfT (2026), E-scooter factsheet 2025 • GOV.UK, Riding an electric scooter: the rules

Plan it BEFORE opening Canva

Sketch the sections — then choose a template that supports your evidence.

YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION / TITLE

CONTEXT

Why is it important?

EVIDENCE

Findings / chart / diagram

CONCLUSION

What should we learn?

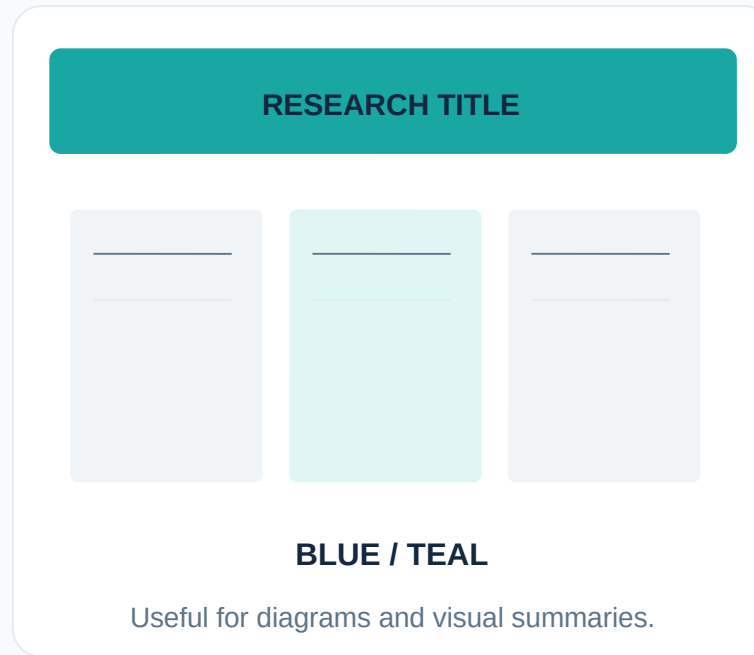
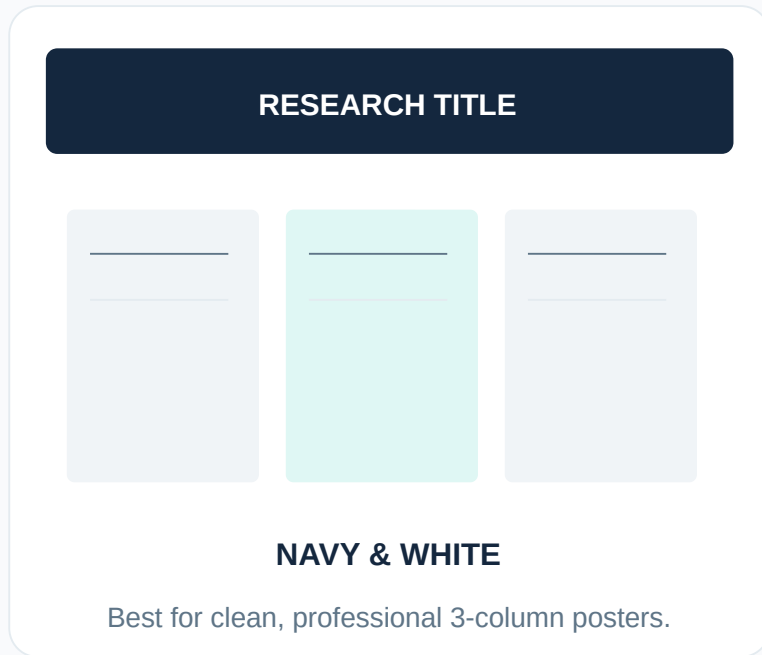
SOURCES: organisation • year • title • URL

ROLE IDEAS

- Source hunters
- Source checker
- Writer / summariser
- Designer / diagram maker
- Presenter / timekeeper

Find a layout that makes evidence easy to follow

Search Canva for an academic or research poster — then adapt the structure.



Canva links are in the next slide. You can also use the editable PowerPoint poster starters.

Starter links & Canva templates

These are starting points; your team should find additional sources.

Design gallery

[Canva • Academic poster designs](#) 

Design gallery

[Canva • Research poster designs](#) 

Team 1

[College of Policing • Public confidence](#) 

Team 1

[College of Policing • Conflict skills](#) 

Team 2

[GOV.UK • E-scooter rules](#) 

Team 2

[DfT • E-scooter casualty factsheet 2025](#) 

Gallery walk: which poster uses evidence best?

Each team gets 2 minutes to present. The other team gives focused feedback.

PEER REVIEW • SCORE OUT OF 10

- Clear research question / 2
- Relevant, credible evidence / 2
- Meaningful visual / 2
- Concise academic explanation / 2
- Conclusion and sources shown / 2

EXIT TICKET

Tell us...

- 1 What did your team learn?
- 2 Which source was strongest?
- 3 What will you improve next time?