COMP2x0/VR220
Portfolio Development/ Worksheet Support

Week 2: Technical Posters

Session aims

- **Review** the requirements of a technical poster
- **Identify** key information to include and collect
- **Plan** a development journal for your specialist artefact

Discussion: Why a poster?

Poster requirements

- **Describe** your artefact
- **Illustrate** the architecture of your artefact
- **Justify** key development choices and design decisions
- Don't forget your name and project title!
- Format: **Portrait A3** **PDF** document

- System components, patterns, data structures…
- At least one **UML diagram** (COMP2x0)

Analyse merits and flaws

Poster marks allocation

COMP2x0

- Threshold: 30%
- Description of architecture: 10%
- UML diagram: 10%
- Appropriateness of artefact design: 15%
- Context for practice-based research: 10%
- Defence of argument: 10%
- Appropriateness of practice-based research methods: 10%
- Academic conventions: 5%

VR220

- Threshold: 15%
- Explanations and discussions of technical elements of the project: 10%
- Description of project objectives and their justification: 10%
- Reflection on the artefact: 15%

Technical posters: structure

Tell a story!

- The problem that needed to be addressed, and why
- A solution that worked (and any that didn't: practice-based research…)
- The outcome and its impact – does it:
  - Meet the goals?
  - Add value?
  - Open up new areas of interest or approaches?
  - Have a positive impact for players/users/developers/coworkers etc.?

Motivation for journey

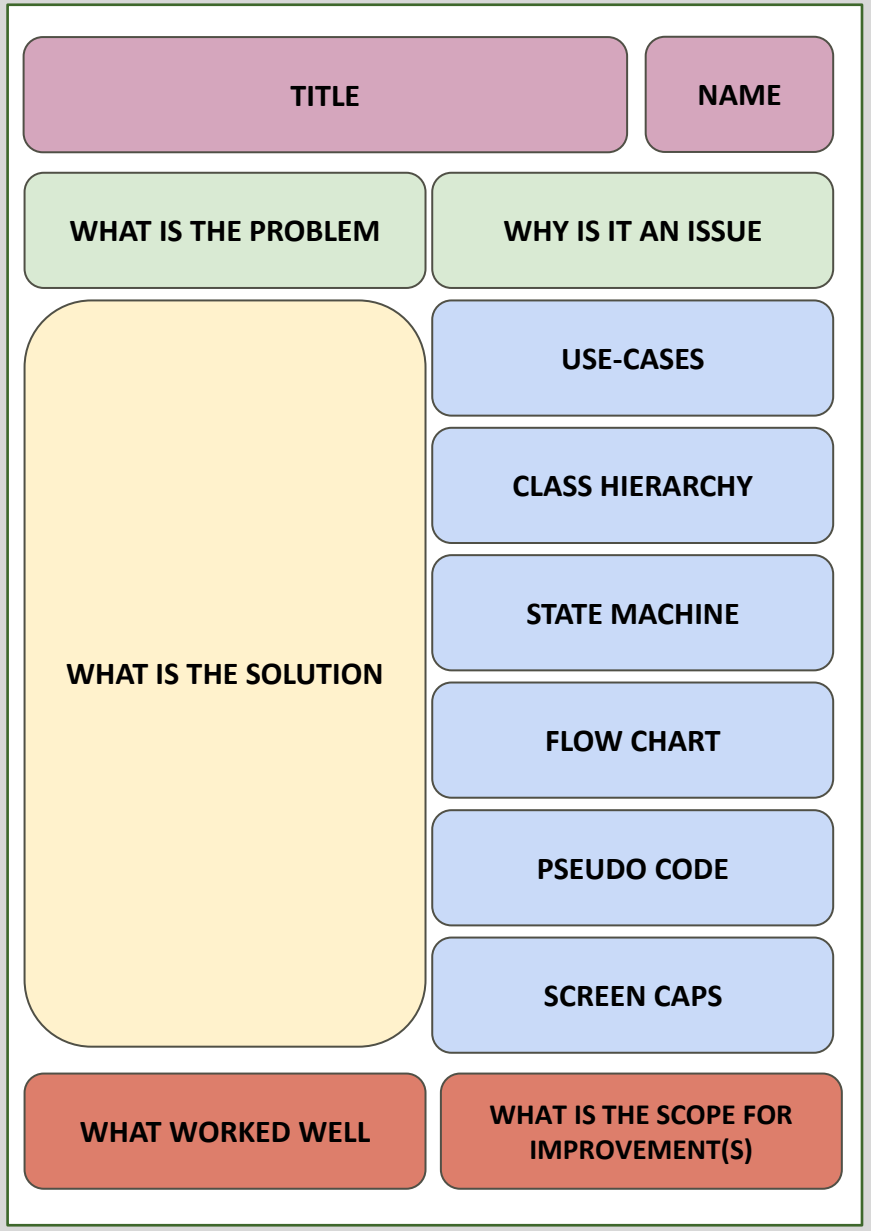
Journey progress

Where you arrived and what you discovered on the way

Poster layout

Style/layout: simple, clear, readable – concentrate on key details and favour images over text.

- More info/guidelines: https://www.makesigns.com/tutorials

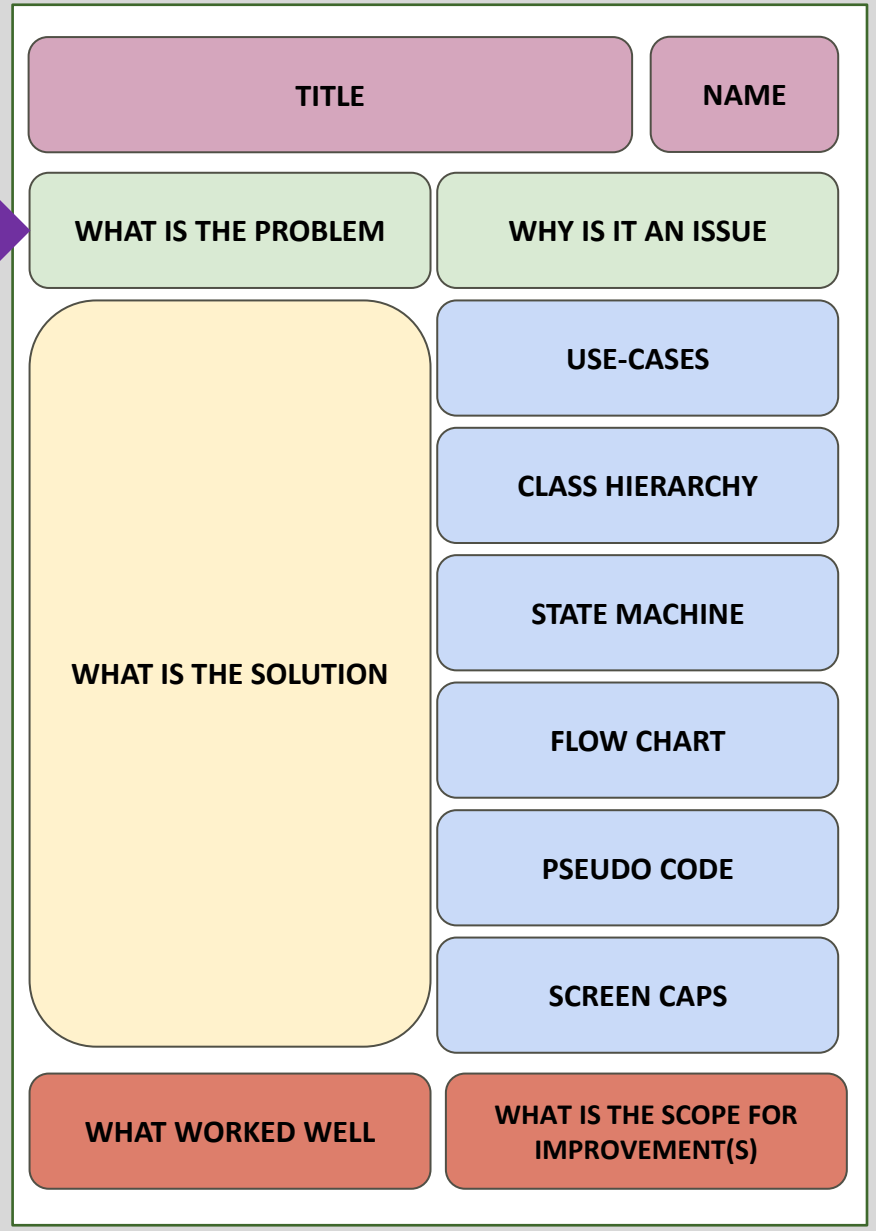


Poster intro

Problem definition: what it is and why it needs solving.

Possibly include:

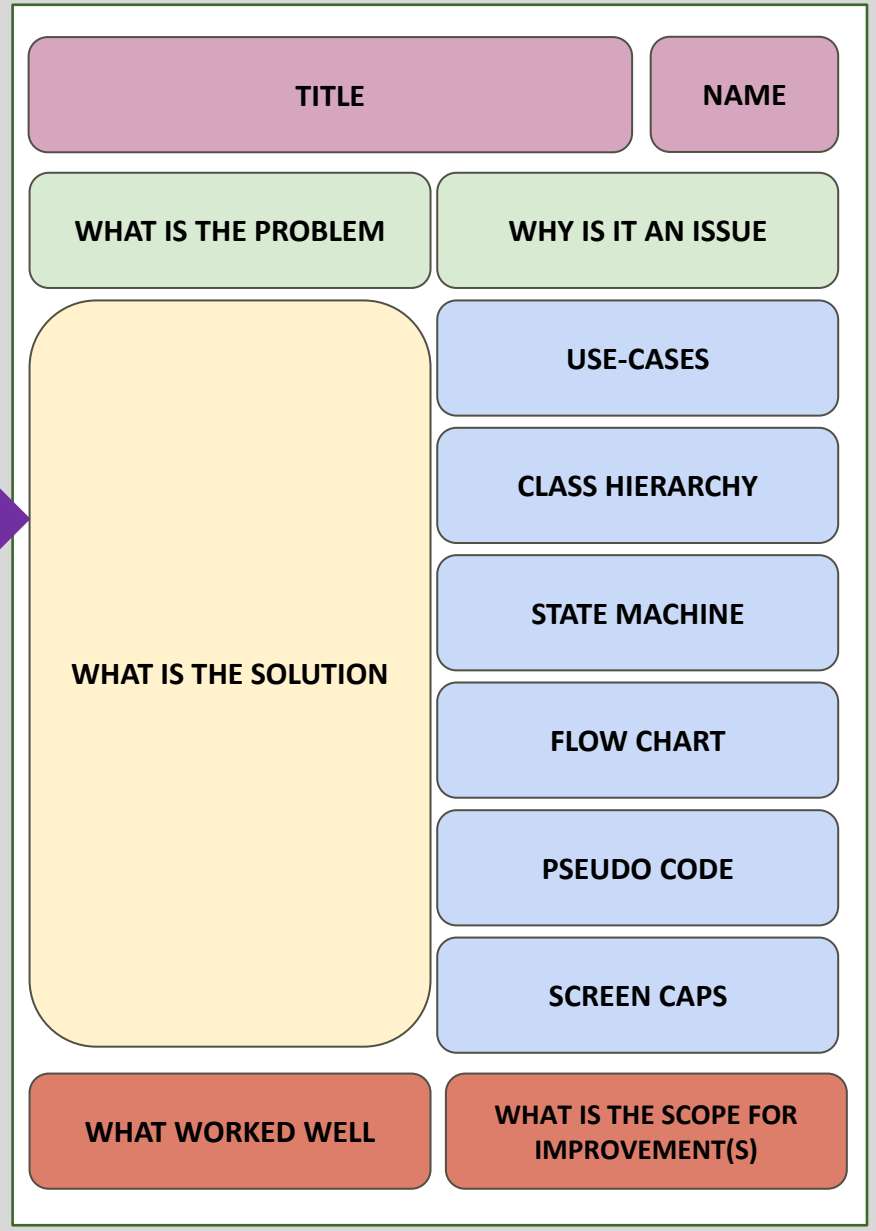
- A screenshot
- A use case
- Some other illustration of the current state of things...



Poster text

Solution description: details of what the solution is, and how it is implemented

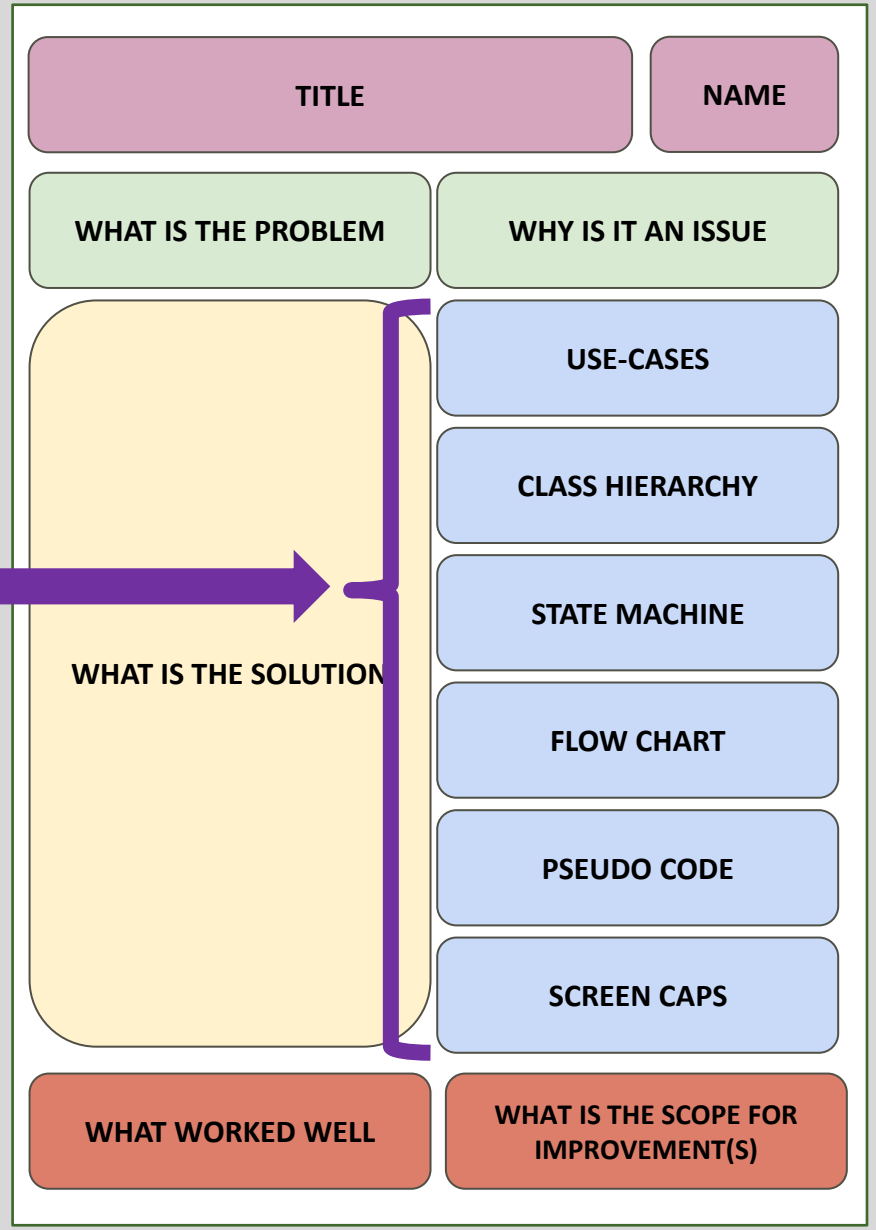
- Should contain some text – but not too much!
- Use references to modelling tools, and images if appropriate…



Poster diagrams

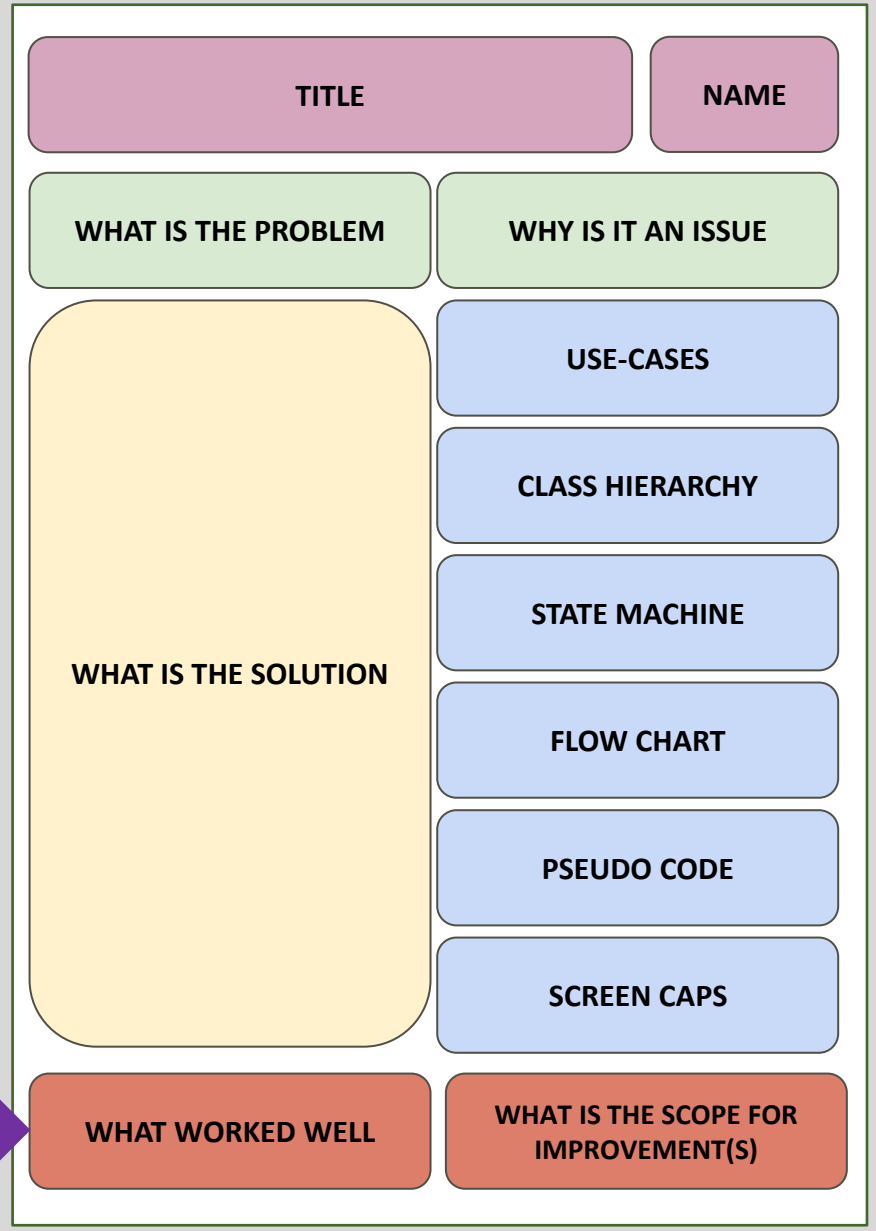
Modelling tools: a selection of visual tools for articulating your solution

- Don't use all of them, just the most appropriate ones for your problem!
- Don't need to include all the details; an overview may be clearer
- No Blueprints screenshots!



Poster conclusion

Outcome and impact: opportunity for reflection and constructive criticism



Activity: poster review

This week's Padlet has some example posters on it; choose 2-3 that catch your eye and review them!

Add comments (or connect boxes) to state:

- How effectively does it convey information?
- Has it covered the key points from the requirements?
- What details about the project does it include?

Discussion: key information

Asynchronous task: journal setup

- Read the advice on keeping a development journal here: https://spin.atomicobject.com/2014/10/13/keeping-development-journal/
- Considering the poster examples and requirements,
  - Decide what information about your project it would be useful to record (e.g. references, similar work/examples, progress, design decisions…).
  - Create a template journal entry page in your notebook on the Teams site (in the "Class Notebook" tab of the General channel).
    - This can just be some titles/headings to copy, or you can adapt an existing template – instructions available here for the app.
- Use your template to create an entry for anything you've done so far on your assignment (e.g. deciding on an artefact/writing the proposal).