

Pointers for Journal Club Presentations

I. Organization (concise and to the point)

- A. Title page: Title of talk, date, your name
- B. Background (inverted triangle)
 - 1. History
 - 2. Context
 - 3. General questions of the field
 - 4. Specific questions of the paper
- C. Results
 - 1. Description of general approach
 - 2. Specific experiments
 - a. Understand principles underlying methodology
 - b. Be able to interpret the experiment, pointing to key results in the figure
 - c. Take your time and step through it
 - d. State the conclusions you can derive from the experiment
 - e. Point out weaknesses (if any) in experimental design, display of results
 - 3. Over all conclusions
- D. Discussion
 - 1. Impact on field
 - 2. Limitations
 - 3. Future directions

II. Style

- A. Speak to the audience, not to your computer or the screen
- B. Try to be dynamic, not monotone
- C. Minimize text in bullets: use key phrases, not sentences
- D. Don't read the text- paraphrase
- E. Label figures with figure number and title and/or conclusion
- F. Use white or yellow on blue or black (dark font) on white or light pastels; not black on blue or other poor contrast choices
- G. Use Arial or Helvetica (non-serif font)- easier to read from a distance
- H. Keep outline for reference

III. Choice of articles

- A. Pick ones that are hypothesis-based and use good experimental scientific approach
- B. Avoid descriptive studies unless the methodology or approach is ground-breaking
- C. First or second tier journals
 - 1. General journal titles, not super specific (like Australian Journal of Veterinary Medicine)
 - 2. Suggested journals:
 - a. J. Neuroscience
 - b. Science
 - c. Nature
 - d. Nature Neuroscience
 - e. Neuron
 - f. Cell
 - g. J. Physiology

