**General tips for presenting full journal club papers**

**Meyer Lab, May 2022**

What kind of paper should you choose? Relevant to the lab’s work, a useful method, or relevant to our larger fields (environmental toxicology, mitochondrial biology, etc.), or to science in general (e.g., analysis of reproducibility of scientific findings).

We have decided to alternate between two journal club styles.

1. Twice per month, everyone will present a 5-6-minute summary of a cool paper in their field that they have read, and then we’ll do a few minutes of Q&A (10 minutes per person goal). Add names and links to the Google calendar.
2. Once per month, we’ll have a full walk-through of a journal article. Instructions on this follow.

Ahead of time:

Usually, pick a data paper: it is hard to lead a good discussion on a review paper.

Send everyone a PDF of the paper a week or more before the journal club, so they have time to read it. If you plan to assign figures for presentation/discussion, set that up at this time. Also, send a reminder a day ahead of time.

Read the paper thoroughly yourself. See if it has been discussed in subsequent review papers, rebutted by other papers, retracted (!), picked up in social media, etc.

1st 35 minutes of actual journal club:

1. ~10 minutes: Mini-lecture: Give some context, describe methods and broader (than the paper) aspects of the science that some participants may not know.
2. ~20 minutes. Talk your audience through each figure and table. You may divvy up responsibility with others (ahead of time; don’t call on people out of the blue, and remember that different people in the lab have different levels of experience). If the paper is extremely dense, choose which parts to focus on to a) leave time for discussion and b) finish in an hour.
3. ~5 minutes: Conclusions—what was learned, why does it matter (to the field, to our lab, etc.).

Next 25 minutes: discuss. what was good/bad, what did you not understand, possibly what should come next. Plan some questions to ask the group.

***Part of the goal is to learn the specific science of the paper, and part of the goal is to practice, and demonstrate to newer lab members, the skill of diving deeply into a paper.***

Also, check out the list of websites with others’ perspectives on journal clubs, on the lab website: <https://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/meyer/home/helpful-resources/>