

How to do a Journal Club

Part I - Content

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2004

Why a Journal Club?

- Learn about our field
- Keep abreast of new developments
- Foster informal discussion and interaction
- Help students develop presentation skills

Getting Ready

- Choose a few good **peer-reviewed** journal articles
 - ✦ Relevant to biomedical informatics
 - ✦ Interesting for you & audience
 - ✦ Important result or approach
- Send choices to instructor for feedback
 - ✦ 2 weeks before your presentation
- Choose one article
- Read critically
- Take notes while reading
- Reread even more critically
- Skim related articles or web information

Good Sources for Articles

- Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association - www.jamia.org
- Journal of Biomedical Informatics - www.academicpress.com/jbi
- International Journal of Medical Informatics - www.elsevier.com/locate/ijmedinf
- Informatics articles in medical journals (JAMA, BMJ), nursing journals, management in medicine journals, etc.
- Related articles in computer science or information science journals (e.g. www.acm.org)

Creating the Content

- Introduce yourself
 - ✦ Why did you choose this paper?
 - ✦ How does it relate to your interests?
- Summarize article (briefly!)
- Provide context
- Critique, question, react
- Conclude

Summarize Article

- Assume audience read the paper
- Do **not** assume audience understood it
- Provide context
 - ✦ When?
 - ✦ Where?
 - ✦ Why?
- State authors' take home messages
- Focus on interesting/controversial issues

Provide Context

- Research author and related work
 - ✦ Look up author's webpage
 - ✦ Email author specific questions/clarifications
- Compare & Contrast
 - ✦ Earlier work (follow citations)
 - ✦ Conflicting work (by others)
 - ✦ Alternative visions for same niche
 - ✦ Later work (follow citation index)

Critique, Question, React

- Objectively
 - ✦ Did the author(s) support their point?
 - ✦ Was their support valid?
- Subjectively
 - ✦ How does it relate to your own experiences?
 - ✦ Why did you find this paper interesting or important?
 - ✦ What do you think the impact of this paper is?

Conclude

- Restate author's take-home message
- State your own take-home message
 - ✦ Provide a personal perspective
 - ✦ Be provocative

Summary

- Choose a good article
- Introduce yourself
- Summarize article
- Provide context
- Critique, question, react
- Conclude

Enjoy!