MEDED 590 – Journal Club

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http://www.ischool.washington.edu/wpratt/MEDED590/

What is a Journal Club?

➤ Forum for students
- Read the literature
- Analyze & critique articles
- Practice presentation skills
- Discuss related ideas
- Appreciate other perspectives

Logistics

➤ Subset of students present
➤ Class time: 1:00-1:50pm
- Student presents: 20-25 minutes
- Class discusses: ~20 minutes
- Faculty feedback: ~5 minutes

Expectations

When others present
- Read selected article
- Attend class
- Listen to presenter & faculty feedback
- Participate in discussion
- Provide written, constructive feedback
- Incorporate feedback into your presentations

How to do a Journal Club
Part I - Content

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!