

MEDG 545

Preparation for your journal club presentation

1. How to select a good paper?

- think about your audience
- main topics: epigenetics, chromatin, and development
- critically assess the quality, novelty, and importance of the study
 - is it published in a good journal?
 - ask advice from your supervisor before making your final choice
 - is it from a well-established, well-published research group?
 - does it have important or interesting implications?
 - do they use a novel technique or approach?

2. Read the paper carefully and take notes

- read at least 2 to 3 other related papers, perhaps a recent review of the field
- any related/associated News & Views type of commentary about this paper?
- identify the most important result figures from the paper itself
- cut & paste them directly from the pdf file
- or better, import PowerPoint files of key figures, if available online
- find other important figures for the intro, background, discussion
- summary figures? model?
- draw your own figures to complement these, if required

3. Your presentation should be 25 to 35 minute long, plus questions

- as a rule of thumb, you'll need ~1 slide per minute

4. Introduction

- at least 4-6 slides
- you can for instance introduce the main lab, it's authors (photos?)
- summarize previous work from this group, relevant to your paper
- provide a good introduction of the main topic
 - give necessary info to understand the study
 - use figures from previous papers or reviews
 - situate the work in the field in general
 - what's the importance of the questions being addressed?
 - main hypothesis behind the paper?

5. Results

- follow the logical flow of the paper
- present only key figures from the paper itself and supplementary material
- you do not need to present everything; crop and keep only what you need
- write down the Figure number/panel on each slide
- minimal amount of text required for each result figure:
 - experiment/question, result, conclusion
 - use animations to bring text in only when required
 - what's next? Add a linking slide or text statement

6. Discussion

- bring back points from the introduction
- what are the key findings of this study? What's new?
- are their results clear?
- are their conclusions supported by their data?
- future directions?
- you can formulate your own questions to address next
- try to engage the participation of the audience

7. Style & format of your presentation

- stand up for your presentation
- look at the audience, not only at your slide
- use a pointer or computer cursor
- do not put too much text on each slide, only key points to guide you and the audience
- engaging style, ask questions, raise issues throughout
- add linking slides between key sections of the results
- "The previous experiments showed this, now they asked this next question"
- prepare the audience for the next slide and know what it will be in advance!
- keep a logical, linear flow of the "story"