

Litclub Guidelines

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**THEY'RE MORE WHAT YOU'D CALL
GUIDELINES**

THAN ACTUAL RULES

Basic Concept of our Litclub

Presenter

- **learn how to present a scientific results** (one of the most important skills!!)
- learn how to read a paper and get the most important information (in a short time)

Audience

- Learn about interesting scientific results outside of your (thesis-)bubble
- **Learn how to discuss about science** (one of the most important skills!!)
- Think about one question for each talk

General Guidelines: Preparation / Reading

- rule of thumb: you should be finished within 1 working day (3-4 hours active working time)
- reading the paper
 - once to get a general overview
 - a second time to understand the results and conclusions
 - Why is it interesting? (i.e., **why should I care about the results?**)
 - Which questions do the authors want to answer?
 - Which question was then actually answered?
 - What's new compared to previous publications in this field?
 - a third time to (roughly) understand the methods
 - How were the results obtained?

General Guidelines: Slides

- aim your talk to be 15 minutes at maximum (less is also okay), i.e. ~10 slides
- 15min discussion, which may be moderated by the PostDocs

Content

- focus on the results and conclusions (“Why should the audience care”?)
- focus on the most important figures first and then add more if necessary
- methods especially technical details should only come second (but a general idea of the methods is still important!)
 - you are free to skip / only comment on a few things; as this is outside of your expertise it is expected you will not fully understand all technical details and there you have to trust the authors
- general rules for slides: little text, only display what you explain etc ...
- the personal touch: What have you learnt? What is your opinion on that?

The talk itself

- make it interesting and (expert mode) entertaining!
 - try to tell a story and not a selection of methods
 - focus on the understanding and not the technical details; speak freely, but obviously no need to rehearse the talk before; it should be an informal discussion with your input in form of slides
- obviously, no need to rehearse the talk
 - be able to answer the “why” questions (see the “reading” slide) and understand what is plotted in the figures you present
- get (private) feedback from your colleagues (and/or ask me for feedback), we all want to learn after we invested so much time

Final Notes

- reading papers and presenting them follows the same scheme
 - again, focus on the results and understanding
 - “Why should I care?” instead of “How does this method work?”
 - try to convince your audience why this paper is interesting or at least, why the topic is worth discussing
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- if you feel you do not understand the paper at all you have several options
 - talk to your colleagues
 - choose a different paper