

VRSP Journal Club Guidelines

Each journal club session will have a team of 3-4 students and a faculty mentor.

Every Scholar should read the articles prior to the session, but the assigned team of scholars should be prepared to present the material and lead the discussion. The scholars present the material, while the faculty is there to contribute insight to the discussion.

- Read the assigned articles and briefly search the literature (internet and other sources) for other related articles or articles that are referenced in your articles. Feel free to bring other good articles that you like to share with the group!
- Schedule a meeting with the faculty mentor about a week in advance to discuss the topic, the articles, and how the topic relates to us.
- Discuss the topic and your articles amongst your team and your faculty mentor.
- Decide on a presentation style; this is up to each group to pick a style that works for you and your topic. Options include:
 - Powerpoint presentation to summarize the articles and how they relate to our scholars
 - For ethical topics, you can create a role-playing exercise and assign positions to various members in our group (i.e., one scholar becomes the Primary Investigator, one scholar becomes the Dean, one scholar becomes the graduate student...now how will we all handle this ethical situation?)
 - Written take-home messages of the articles to share with your peers and then summarize verbally with your peers
 - What presentation style will best help you learn from this topic? How can you take this information forward for the rest of your career? (i.e., will you look at powerpoint slides or notes again if they are shared?)
- After you summarize each article, please provide discussion topics/questions for the group
 - Hopefully many discussion questions will come up, but some that we will want to consider will be:
 - How is this topic relevant to our scholars as future veterinarians and researchers?
 - How is it directly relevant to your current project?
 - What did we learn that is helpful for our futures?
 - What surprised you or was different than what you expected?
 - What concepts were confusing that we want to discuss further or get different perspectives to understand better?
- This journal club presentation will not be a “reading aloud of the articles.”

The intent of these journal clubs is to be a 30-minute presentation of the material by the team followed by an open discussion by the entire group. Everyone should be prepared to engage in the discussion and bring questions and comments to the table. If anyone finds additional helpful articles related to the topics we are discussing, please feel free to share with the group or forward to Dr. KuKanich so that they can be shared with all.