

Reporter assignments

1. **500 word mini-review** due at the board meeting (i.e., in that tutorial you **sign up for**)
2. **Convince us** that the paper you chose is worth covering, **guide the discussion**
3. Afterwards, write a **500 word news report** that explains the study for in a **clear and engaging way** (due in tutorial 1 week later)

*** IF you choose week 7, your news report is still due in week 8, even though there won't be a tutorial*

1. Before: Mini-Review

- What is the main research question? Why is it important to science?
- How was the research done? How was this study different compared to what had been done before? Use lay terms.
- What was the main result, and why is it important? Was the study successful? Are the results generalizable? Why should the public know about it?

Your job is to make a compelling argument that the paper should be covered in the popular press, while being honest about its flaws.

2. During: The Meeting

- Summary notes
- Strengths (and weaknesses)
- Best reasons for why the public needs/wants to know about this study
- Ideas for how to make it interesting for your readers (e.g., how would you start off your article? what will your title be?)
- Ideas for how to structure your short news report
- Potential challenges: e.g., technical methods to explain? limitations of the study conclusions?
- Questions (for the other experts)

3. After: News Report

Armed with feedback from the board meeting discussion...

- Explain the science in an engaging but accurate way... What did the researchers do, and why? Why is this cool?
- See examples from sources like *New Scientist* to see how to structure a news report
- Target audience is reader with some science background, but little knowledge of the field. Your job is to put this cool new result in context for them.