

Reading, Presenting, and Organizing Papers

GLASS

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Where to find papers:

- New postings:
 - arXiv.org - updated M-F (7:30p)
 - voxcharta.org - pulls from arXiv, but allows you to see what other people think is important, and up vote for Friday discussion
- Efficient searching: http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract_service.html - allows searching by year, author title, etc.

Using VoxCharta

- Upvotes - can view votes from TAMU or all institutions
- Previous voting record
- Previous agendas
- View by field
- Order based on voting record

How to read papers

- Broadly speaking for daily postings: title (most postings), abstract (<20%), figures (1- a few), conclusions, intro, entire paper
- Generally if I look at the figures, I'll add the paper to my Mendeley library and continue reading it there.
- If you are looking at a paper recommended to you by your advisor, you'll want to do a more in-depth read, but going through the same order above can work to get the main points out.

How to present papers

- READ THE PAPER!
- Try to provide some general background/context for those who aren't experts in that subfield (this is often in the Introduction).
- Present the key figures
- End with a set of main takeaways/Conclusions.

How to present papers

- You do not need to know the details of every method used.
- You should be able to answer basic questions and have a rough idea of the process used (there will usually be questions).
- It's okay to bring up a paper for discussion that *you* have questions about - chances are someone else will be able to help.
- Remember - critiques of the paper are not critiques of you (unless you do a REALLY bad job presenting).

Organization

- Programs like Mendeley will keep track of your papers, allow sorting into groups, highlighting/note-taking, and even create BibTex files (useful for writing papers down the line...)
<https://www.mendeley.com/>
- Plenty of alternatives exist: <http://www.topbestalternatives.com/2015/top-7-best-alternatives-to-mendeley/>