

How to find stuff to present on in  
seminar

# What sorts of topics are appropriate?

- Very Broad:
  - Physics & related
  - Astro & related
  - Engineering & related
- A goal of seminar is for you to find something with some physics/technical stuff to get your teeth into

# Sources of Ideas

- Your own curiosity (I've always been interested in x.)
- Popular media (new sites, magazines, blogs, TV, ...)
- Scholarly Journals
  - We'd like you all to have some exposure to the scholarly literature but....
  - It is often pretty opaque even to an expert if looking outside his area of expertise
- If you have trouble getting started, see or email me (but earlier in you talk prep!) or see one of the Reference Librarians (Alisa Mizikar is the Physics Liaison)

Note: These should never be your only sources—  
notoriously unreliable

# About sources

- Usually, news items and web popularizations are very qualitative and often very wrong, so never stop at these “tertiary sources”.
- Use links/searches to follow back to primary (scholarly) or secondary (Physics Today or Physics World level) sources
- Connect where possible with physics you know from class/textbooks
- [http://userpages.wittenberg.edu/pvoytas/courses/p360\\_460\\_f16/library\\_resources.html](http://userpages.wittenberg.edu/pvoytas/courses/p360_460_f16/library_resources.html)