

Instruction Guide

Feb 8

If you are presenting one of the required readings, then you should prepare a short discussion (about 5 minutes), describing the article, what you think the author's aim was in writing it, a 2-3 key arguments that you found persuasive or not (and why you found them so), and finally a set of 3-4 questions that you would like to pose for discussion.

If you are not presenting, send to the TA two paragraphs in which you use concepts from two of the readings to discuss how the graph or images are used in the Lancet article.

Here are some concepts to get you started, but please feel free to discover additional ones: making real, gaze specific to genetics (or another technical field), looking without touching (from Keller); selection, mathematization, “making into facts, and other more specific forms of transformation and translation (from Lynch); too much faith in pictures, accuracy versus quality of information, and seeing a problem versus understanding it (from Gladwell); and other concepts from my chapter.

The idea is that you are becoming more specific and analytic about how visualizations are constructed and deployed. This is not always a criticism of the use, it can also be an appreciation of how a point was made visible, enhanced, or further specified through these concepts.