

Blog 1 assignment
03-363: Systems Neuro
10 points total

For this assignment, you will be assigned a group of 3 students (yourself and 2 others). There will be 3 assigned research papers. Each person will choose 1 of the 3 papers to be “primary blogger”, a different paper to be “responder”, and then be the “recapper” for the last paper.

In other words, I will give you Paper1, Paper2, and Paper3. If the group of 3 people are Alice, Bob, and Carol, then some arrangement like this would work:

Paper1: Alice is “primary blogger”, Bob is “responder”, and Carol is “recapper”

Paper2: Bob is “primary blogger”, Carol is “responder”, and Alice is “recapper”

Paper3: Carol is “primary blogger”, Alice is “responder”, and Bob is “recapper”

The groups and papers will be assigned on 1/25. By 10:00 pm on 1/26, you need to agree who will do each role for each of the three papers and e-mail Teresa (tspix@andrew) your plan for who has each role for each paper.

Over the weekend of 1/27-1/29, ***everyone needs to read all 3 papers***, paying special attention to the paper for which they are “primary blogger”. By 10:00 pm on Monday, Jan 30th, everyone needs to make a 400-600 word blog post about the paper for which they are “primary blogger”. In that post, they should:

- a) Summarize the paper (about 75% of the blog should be spent summarizing) including question asked, methods used, results, and conclusion
- b) Briefly ask a question for clarification or about one of the methodologies used
- c) Briefly ask a follow-up scientific question

So, in the example arrangement described above:

- Before 10:00 pm on 1/30, Alice needs to write a 400-600 word blog post about Paper1
- Before 10:00 pm on 1/30, Bob needs to write a 400-600 word blog post about Paper2
- Before 10:00 pm on 1/30, Carol needs to write a 400-600 word blog post about Paper3

The next day, on Tuesday, January 31st, you should read both of your group members’ blog posts and post a 200-300 word response (as a comment) to the one that you are assigned “responder” to. You may also post comments to the other person’s blog in your group and you may even re-respond to responses posted about your own blog or comment on other classmates’ blogs, but that is optional and won’t affect your grade. In your required response, you must:

- a) Discuss the original poster’s summary of the paper, including ***either*** pointing out additional data from the paper that support their statement of the overall conclusion ***or*** constructively pointing out an alternative conclusion that the data may support in the paper
- b) ***Either*** answer their clarification/methodological question ***or*** agree with them that you don’t know the answer to it.
- c) Suggest one other follow-up scientific question

(continued on back)

The “response” is due by 10:00 pm on February 2nd. Again, in our example scenario, this means that Bob will post a response to Alice, Carol will post a response to Bob, and Alice will post a response to Carol. All are due by 10:00 pm on 2/2.

Between February 2nd and 5th, you need to read all of your group’s posts and responses. You should continue the responses and comments online and look for comments from Dr. Brasier and/or Teresa.

In class on Tuesday, February 7th, you will have 30 minutes to meet with your group and discuss the 3 papers and the blog posts and discussions. In order to make this time effective, it is ***essential*** that everyone have read all 3 papers and all the blog posts for your group before that time. The goal for that time is to come up with a group summary of what you discussed about each paper and what unresolved questions you still have.

That night, 2/7, by 10:00 pm, the “recapper” for each paper needs to post a 100-200 word summary of the entire discussion from online and from in class, also as a comment on the original blog. This includes what different perspectives were raised about the paper, what consensus you reached about the paper, what questions were raised and answered, and what questions were raised but still remain unanswered. So, in or example, Carol recaps Paper1, Alice recaps Paper2, and Bob recaps Paper3.

Again, additional responses and discussions within the blog forum are encouraged, but optional.

Finally, on 2/9 in class, you will be required to turn in peer-evaluations for each of your group members and a self-evaluation. Your evaluations of your peers will be used to give them some general feedback, but the specifics of what you say and your name will not be attached to the feedback Dr. Brasier gives your group members

Grading:

Your original post (due 1/30) is worth 5 points. 3 points for summarizing the paper and its main points, 1 point for asking a question for clarification about the study logic or methodology, and 1 point for your proposed follow-up.

Your response (due 2/2) is worth 3 points. 2 points for pointing out additional data/alternative interpretation and 1 point for an alternative follow-up. (Although you are encouraged to try to answer the methodological/clarification question raised by the original poster, this is not required.)

Your recap (due 2/7) is worth 1 point. 0.5 point for describing the discussion about what you think the paper means and the consensus and 0.5 point for recapping what questions were raised (including whether/how they were answered or not).

Finally, the peer- and self-evaluations are graded for honesty and are worth 1 point (0.33 points for each peer-evaluation and 0.34 points for your self-evaluation)

*Notice that all grades are individually assigned, however, **your group members will not be able to do their assignment if you don’t do your assignment or are late on your assignment.** Please plan ahead and finish early so if something comes up last minute you don’t leave your group members hanging.*