

Journal Clubs FAQs:

1. What is the purpose of the Summer Journal Clubs? The purpose of the Summer Journal Clubs is to provide critical reading experience to summer students, and expose them to laboratory techniques and exciting scientific topics.
2. How many students participate in the Summer Journal Clubs? Of the around 1000 students that we have each summer, around 20-30% of them participate in the Summer Journal Clubs. That means that we need around 20-30 different Journal Clubs.
3. What is the format of a Summer Journal Club? In the past, journal clubs have had different formats. For example, some journal clubs only discuss one complex paper though the whole summer. Other journal clubs might discuss two or more papers, or one paper per meeting. The number of papers you decide on will depend on your topic, the complexity of the papers, and your students.
4. What are some of the responsibilities of journal club leaders? Among other things, journal club leaders are responsible for finding a journal club co-leader, determining the time the journal club will meet, reserving a room for the meetings, and selecting papers to review. You must provide all information about your journal club by May 9th. For more information about responsibilities, please visit our information page ([View Web page](#)) and view the orientation Web meeting ([link](#)).
5. What is the time commitment of leading a Summer Journal Club? Leading a journal club requires a 1 hour commitment per week for four to six weeks. Additionally, preparation time for each session can take 1-2 hours per week.
6. How do summer interns find about my Journal Club? All summer students are informed of the journal clubs and encouraged to join one. Journal club titles and descriptions are available online for students to look at and make decisions on their journal club preferences. Make sure you include a description that explains why your journal club topic is interesting. Summer students will have a deadline to register for journal clubs, and leaders will be given their student lists by June 16th.
7. How do I pick an interesting topic? Think about a topic that would have broader interest and that might have current significance in science or in the media. Make sure it is a topic that interests you and that you would feel confident explaining and discussing papers on. More importantly, use your journal club title and description to explain to the students why the topic is interesting and significant to learn about.
8. What topics have been most popular in the past? There have been a variety of topics included in the journal clubs. Summer students are a very diverse group of individuals and are interested in many different topics. Below are some titles from a few of the popular journal clubs we had last year.
 - *Closing the Gap: A Closer Look at Health Disparities in America*
 - *First Revolution of Neuroscience In 21st Century: Controlling The Brain With Lights*
 - *Genome-Wide Approaches to Studying Cancer*
 - *The Dark Art of Cellular Alchemy: Leprosy, Viruses, And Stem Cell Reprogramming*
 - *Vaccines: Why You Have No Clue What Diphtheria Is*
 - *Non-protein-coding RNAs and Neurodegeneration*
 - *Human Viruses: Scientific Advances Behind Science Daily Headlines*
 - *From Obesity To Cancer – Exploring Hot Topics And Cutting Edge Methodologies In Endocrine Research.*
9. Who should I contact with any questions? If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Natasha Lugo-Escobar at lugoescobarn@mail.nih.gov