



S N A P S H O T
S C I E N C E

Current Science Seminar Guidelines

Purpose - To:

1. Collaborate in discussion on recent breakthroughs in science and technology
2. Stretch the boundaries of specific fields of science and incorporate other areas into your primary field of interest
3. Challenge each other to learn to use the lens of science to expand our horizons
4. Practice and hone skills needed for respectful, civil debate and dialogue
5. Listen to learn
6. Have fun!

Preparation:

1. You are all extremely busy. Please put little pressure on yourself.
2. Each month, first read the articles that interest you the most.
3. You may want keep a notebook with the issue you are currently reading to jot down reminders of things you would like to discuss. See the Discussion Flow section below for possible ideas.
4. Prior to the first Monday of each month, send to Mr. Schmidt at sschmidt@snapshotscience.org your top five choices of articles for discussion by level of interest. You need not have read the article prior to sending your choices. This will give Mr. Schmidt time to determine the articles the group is most interested in discussing. A few days prior to discussion, he will send you the discussion agenda.
5. Bring any other current science topics to share with the group if time remains. We may also set up a Facebook group or blog to share ideas and ask questions of each other. We will determine this at the first seminar.

Etiquette:

1. Respect the unique experiences everyone brings to the group.
2. Disagreements lead to learning, so please feel free to disagree respectfully.
3. Refrain from absolute rhetoric, ie. "The author is wrong". Instead, use words that allow for the possibility that we don't have all of the information, such as "I disagree with..."
4. We all will make mistakes from time to time, so gentle reminders may be necessary.

Other advice:

1. "Data speaks" in science. However, no statistical test has a confidence level of 100%.
2. People can believe what they want, even though data may support other conclusions. Realize that the lines between belief and theory are not always clear to individuals.

Discussion Flow:

This is a general guide we may follow if needed. I predict that the discussions will take a flow of their own. Just in case we need a nudge, below is a possible list we could follow. At our first meeting, we will take some time to get to know each other and our particular background and interest in science.

1. Overall impressions of the issue or anything in general you would like to share.
2. Fascinating fast facts - What tidbits of information were fascinating?
3. Amazing pictures
 - a. WHAT IS THIS? Last month
 - b. This month
 - c. Other great pictures?
4. Focused discussion of articles
 - a. Summary
 - b. New knowledge or what did you learn?
 - c. What questions do you have about the science or diagrams?
 - d. Do you have any ethical questions concerning the science presented in the article?
 - e. Do you disagree with any observations or opinions expressed in the article or by fellow seminarians?
 - f. How has the article changed your world view or how might it change the world?
 - g. Will any behaviors or how you DO things be changed?
 - h. Who can you share the article with (classmates, teachers, friends)? Why? How will you approach them?
 - i. Other?
5. News in science from other sources.
6. Look ahead