Pointers for Journal Club Presentations

I. Organization (concise and to the point)
   A. Title page: Title of talk, date, your name
   B. Background (inverted triangle)
      1. History
      2. Context
      3. General questions of the field
      4. Specific questions of the paper
   C. Results
      1. Description of general approach
      2. Specific experiments
         a. Understand principles underlying methodology
         b. Be able to interpret the experiment, pointing to key results in the figure
         c. Take your time and step through it
         d. State the conclusions you can derive from the experiment
         e. Point out weaknesses (if any) in experimental design, display of results
      3. Over all conclusions
   D. Discussion
      1. Impact on field
      2. Limitations
      3. Future directions

II. Style
   A. Speak to the audience, not to your computer or the screen
   B. Try to be dynamic, not monotone
   C. Minimize text in bullets: use key phrases, not sentences
   D. Don’t read the text- paraphrase
   E. Label figures with figure number and title and/or conclusion
   F. Use white or yellow on blue or black (dark font) on white or light pastels; not black on blue or other poor contrast choices
   G. Use Arial or Helvetica (non-serif font)- easier to read from a distance
   H. Keep outline for reference

III. Choice of articles
   A. Pick ones that are hypothesis-based and use good experimental scientific approach
   B. Avoid descriptive studies unless the methodology or approach is ground-breaking
   C. First or second tier journals
      1. General journal titles, not super specific (like Australian Journal of Veterinary Medicine)
      2. Suggested journals:
         a. J. Neuroscience
         b. Science
         c. Nature
         d. Nature Neuroscience
         e. Neuron
         f. Cell
         g. J. Physiology
h. J. Neurophysiology
i. J. Comp. Neurol.
j. Experimental Neurology
k. Developmental Biology
l. Development
m. Lancet
n. J. Cell Biology
o. J. Biological Chemistry
p. EMBO Journal
q. PNAS (if not submitted by member of NAS)
r. Molecular Cell Biology
s. Lancet
t. JAMA

IV. PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE