

Journal Club 2.0: A Fun, Active-Learning Based Journal Club Template for Residency Programs

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Background

- The first medical journal club was organized in 1875 as a "discussion of new or landmark literature in a medical specialty."
- Over 70% of residency programs in the United States utilize journal club; the format and popularity varies by program.
- Published literature has associated a successful conference with smaller residency programs, mandatory attendance, promoting a conference independent of faculty, formal teaching of critical appraisal skills, food availability, and emphasizing original research.
- During the 2021-22 academic year, the journal club conference at our institution for the Internal Medicine (IM) / Transitional Year (TY) Program was poorly rated by residents and faculty.

Objectives

- **Create** an interactive, resident centered session that utilizes role guides (rubrics) and a research coordinator to help residents better understand biostatistics and evidence-based medicine.
- **Develop** a guide for other training programs to utilize for a more active journal club.

Methods

This project was reviewed according to HCA Houston Healthcare Institutional Review Board (IRB) and determined to be non-research and exempt from IRB oversight.

Part One: A survey was distributed to HCA IM program directors across the US, who then forwarded it to their residents to determine their satisfaction with their current journal club format.

Part Two: A novel journal club format was developed and implemented at HCA Kingwood for the IM & TY program (2022-23). The journal club was rebranded as "Seminars in Evidence Based Medicine" and occurred on the 4th Monday of each month.

All 72 residents and 12 subspecialty faculty educators were assigned to present *once per year*. Residents were expected to meet with the research coordinator (T.A.) prior to presentation. Residents were assigned to one role and expected to complete the respective rubric template.

Residents were selected to present in the traditional (one article) or battle (controversial topic; review of guidelines) style.

Part Three: All participants and audience were surveyed about satisfaction after each session.

Part Four: Rubric templates were updated based on participant feedback.

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Rubric Templates



Survey Results

Selected comments from our journal club presentations:

Traditional

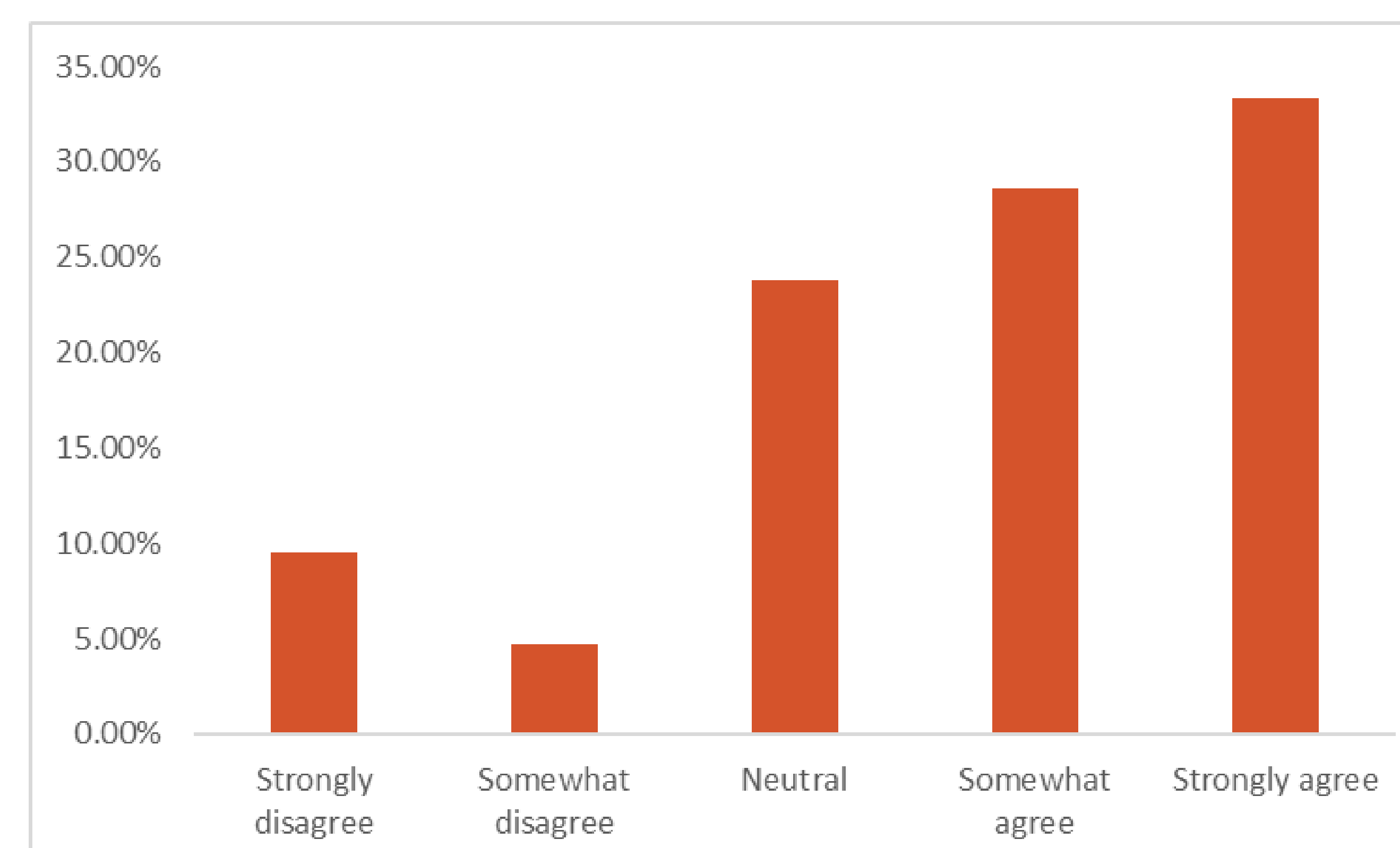
- Great division of work and speaking between team members.
- Engaging presentation. Knowledgeable attending and presenters. Would like more discussion time.

Battle

- This is the only way I want to see journal club, forevermore.
- I did not feel like I had a good understanding of the point or counterpoint...I think a better definition of either side would've helped.

Results from HCA-wide IM residency programs

"The current format of my journal club is a valuable educational experience"



Discussion

Assigning a role to each participant (attending and resident) with a rubric set specific goals and expectations for each participant. Junior residents were tasked with understanding the methods and materials, while senior residents focused on the discussion and validity. A pre-quiz and literature battle served to engage the audience. Requiring all residents in the program to participate emphasized the importance of applying evidence-based medicine to clinical practice and improved ability to teach biostatistics to peers.

Based on feedback, we will work on strengthening the rubric for the battle style presentation to more clearly delineate expectations on the precise definition for each team's argument.



Conclusion

We created participant rubrics and two journal club presentation styles to improve understanding of evidence-based medicine, increase audience engagement, and provide participants with clearly defined goals/expectations for this seminar.

References

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