**Instructions for constructive peer review**

Most peer-review is done in the spirit of helping the author or presenter. Even anonymous peer-review will usually have a constructive tone.

The peer-review process in science is meant to build trust in the community and uphold high standards for what gets widely distributed to the rest of the community. By going through this process, other scientists who read the publications or hear presentations can build on those results.

**Discussion after a presentation:**

* Get clarification on particular points you didn’t understand. This will help the presenter.
* Focus on strengths or potential strengths of the presentation.
* For example, a weak point can be compared to a relative strength.
* Add specific information if you have it on hand.
* Follow up in person or by email if you have specific details or highly critical comments.
* But, if you feel they are slinging BS or way off base, someone needs to say something.
* Don’t gang up on anyone – if someone else in the audience makes a negative comment, don’t join in unless the author resists.

**After in-class presentation**

Write down comments on:

* Presentation
  + What was the best point
  + What could have been improved
  + Facts or details that would have improved the presentation
* Comparison to other presentations
  + What are questions that came up from the comparisons?
  + Can you generate an hypothesis to address a question that came up.