Notes on Reading Papers and Leading a Discussion about a Paper
For CSB.100/7.89

1) Goals
• What were the goals of the study?
• What are/were the big questions in the field that this study addressed?

2) Hypothesis
• What specific hypothesis/es did the study test?
• What assumptions are these hypotheses based on?

3) System/Methods
• What specific system(s) and methods were chosen? Why?
• What were the pros and cons of these choices?

4) Results
• What were the main results?
• Why are these results interesting/important?
• How do these results relate to what was known previously?
• Are there notable weaknesses in the results?

5) Interpretation
• How were the results interpreted?
• Are there other ways the results might be interpreted?
• Do the authors propose a new model or theory? Is it testable?
• How generally applicable is the model or theory?

6) General
• Are there clear next steps to follow up this paper?
• Why is the paper interesting/important? (or why not?)
• Does the approach/way of thinking of the authors derive from a recognizable academic tradition(s)? Which?