**What is The Summer Series of Journal Clubs (SSJC)?**

In the wider academic world, ‘journal clubs’ within companies, healthcare providers (e.g. NHS) and educational institutions provide the opportunity for individuals to hear about news items that they may not have otherwise come across – and also to discuss the points they find interesting.

SSJC provide an opportunity for you to experience this approach. In an informal setting, you get the chance to talk about a news item, or an item relevant to your study, which you find interesting. You will also get the chance to hear from other students.

Our definition of ‘news’ is broad – you might like to share an interesting story about environmental science, or arts or economics - the possibilities are vast. Just start with something that interests you from your OU studies and see what you can find. You might have a passion for biology or politics, astronomy or English literature – or software engineering. The point is – we’d love to hear about it!

At the end of each session, we’ll also have the opportunity to talk about the experience – working together to draw on the events in the session to consider ‘best practice’ for giving presentations.

**Why should you take part?**

We believe that SSJC should be informal and fun, and we very much hope that you would enjoy the experience. However, you might not realise that you would develop some key study, life and employability skills along the way.

Here’s a quick round-up of some important competencies and skills you have developed while working on different aspects of SSJC (you’ll notice that there is a bit of overlap where these skills are re-enforced during different activities):

* **Finding information for your presentation**: problem solving, digital literacy, taking initiative, self-management and resilience
* **Critically evaluating information**: problem solving, digital literacy, taking initiative, self-management and resilience, self-awareness
* **Managing this information and preparing your presentation**: communication, digital literacy, self-management and resilience
* **Collaborating**: problem solving, communication, collaboration, digital literacy initiative, self-management and resilience
* **Communicating this information**: communication, collaboration, digital literacy

These skills are likely to support your current – and future – studies. They are also highly prized by employers. So why not update your CV to tell potential employers about all the useful skills you have developed during SSJC?!

**What do you need to do?**

* Speak to your Education Manager to ask their advice about taking part. They will tell you the available sessions and advise you on the time and work involved
* Find your news – use the library, mainstream media –you might discuss module material (as long as you do not share assessment material)
* Come along to our ‘Presentation Skills’ tutorial (DATE and TIME)
* Following guidance from your Education Manager, sign-up to a Journal Club (DATE and TIME)
* Plan and prepare your presentation. Avoid producing a script – but make a note of the points you want to cover
* Practice your presentation
* Take part in SSJC