

Ah, chemistry ... lectures, labs, research, a new building with ducks in the hallways ... and what's missing from this picture? Of course: Friday afternoon seminars! Why do we have seminars? Most of speakers who come to give a talk, come at their own institution's expense – because they want to talk to *you*. They want you to know about graduate opportunities at their university, or jobs at their company. So why would you want to go?? Well, it's way for you to learn some chemistry and apply that knowledge you've learned (maybe even in an area of chemistry outside of your primary interest). But more than that, it puts a face on chemistry. You get to watch chemists in action, see the person behind the science, and appreciate the human side. You get a chance to put yourself in the visitor's shoes, and see what works and doesn't work in a seminar presentation format, hopefully picking up on some presentation skills yourself in the process. Some speakers will be entertaining and easy to follow. Some will require a little more work on your part as the listener, and may be challenging, even difficult, to understand. *All will have something you can learn from!*

Your instructor may be assigning seminar attendance as part of your course grade, or for extra credit. To help you get more from your seminar participation, and to help the chemistry department plan future seminar programs, here are some questions you can think about and respond to as you participate. So – to earn your extra credit (and generally enlighten yourself), think about the following questions and write a maximum one-page word processed response. Be sure to include: Your name, Speaker's name and title, Date, and Your Section Number and/or prof. You can either turn in printout copy or email it as an attachment to your lecture professor.

- What's one thing you learned from the seminar that you didn't know before?

- What's one question or part you didn't understand?

- The speaker is describing a significant piece of her career's work ... what do you think would be a motivating factor in the speaker's pursuit of his professional interest? Is it one you share?

- If you were giving this seminar, what would you do? What do you think were the positive aspects of the speaker's presentation, and what would you do differently?