Synopses are meant to help you dissect the papers. You will get better at it and faster at it as the semester goes along.

Synopses should be short (At least one of us (instructors) will try to read and briefly comment on all of them the night before class. That’s as many as 3 synopses x number of students x Min per synopsis... this number can let very large very fast. ) Clearly, this is an exercise in CLARITY, clean formatting, being succinct! Typically, the whole thing can be ¾ page per synopsis.

Please assemble all of your synopses in one WORD (or pdf) document. Name the document with ENAS880, the number of the class that they pertain to (see syllabus for session #) and your name. Otherwise, we will simply not be able to keep them all straight.

Bullet points and short paragraphs are fine. Let’s try to cover the items below. Not every synopsis has to be comprehensive. We will optimize the synopsis format a bit as time goes on. In general, please include

(Brief) Title/author

The main goal of the work.

The imaging modality(ies).

The tracer (if PET/SPECT)? The drug (if any); The signal being measured (BOD etc...if fMRI).

What finding?

What was the calculated endpoint?

What was the experimental design (this could be represented as a timeline with arrows and a bit of explanation for injections, interventions, sampling, breaks etc.)

What assumptions did they make? Did they make any errors either in their design or interpretation?

What questions do you have? What don’t you understand?

What is the next question or experiment they should do (pretend the paper just came out).