Guidelines for Discussants

As a discussant your job is to carefully read the paper/presentational material of the classmate to whom you have been assigned, and make a 5-minute presentation to the class. Here are the guidelines:

1. Your classmate is required to give you his/her paper/presentational material at least 48 hours before the scheduled presentation.

2. At the time of the presentation, your classmate goes first and makes his/her presentation. Immediately afterwards you go to the front of the class and present your critique/feedback. You may use PowerPoint, web-based materials, handouts, etc., if you wish (you don't have to).

3. Your main goal should be to come up with constructive criticism, suggestions for improvement, feedback, etc. Your purpose is not to praise. If you feel compelled to praise, make it brief.

4. Your discussion of the paper/presentation should be conducted in a professional manner. Saying something like, "In my opinion your point number two is irrelevant to your topic," won't be helpful. Rather, you should say something like, "For these reasons [spell out some concrete reasons, preferably based on data, or articles you have consulted] I couldn't see a clear relationship between your point two and the issue you are trying to analyze. I suggest that you [make a concrete suggestion for improvement].