Workshop Worksheet 1: Big Picture

1. What is the main mathematical point of the talk? What is the main result?

2. Why is your result interesting? How does it fit into context?

3. What captures the interest of the listener right at the beginning?

4. What is the general outline of the talk? What are the chunks of the talk? Are you being a magician? Are you using the take-one-more-step-with-me-into-the-forest approach?

5. What helps to get the main points across? Are there helpful pictures or examples, simplified / special cases of statements? Analogies or comparisons?   Repetition of the big idea? (See worksheet 2 for more.)

6. What obscures the main point? Is the talk too technical/detailed in any place?

7. What are the point(s) of tension in the talk? For instance, is there a seemingly insurmountable obstacle? An example that points to a wrong conjecture? A contrast with a well known theorem or example?   An easy "proof" that is wrong? Read this.

8. Do you explain where in your proof the hard work is?

9. Would you want to listen to this talk (pretending you are not working on this exact problem)? Is it the talk you want to give, or the talk the audience wants to hear?