



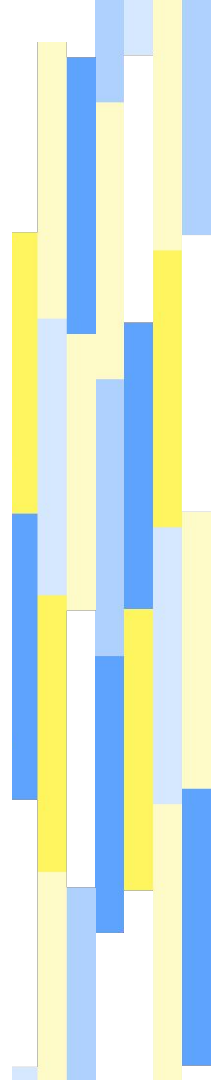
# Pull request author responsibilities

Childhood Cancer  
**Data**  **Lab**

x



An author is the  
person that is directly  
**responsible** and  
**accountable** for an  
issue



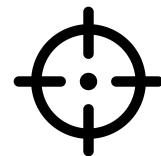
# A good issue is focused



Roughly, the smallest unit of work something could be broken down into to result in a single, functional pull request that is manageable for review.



# Rules of thumb for **focused pull requests**



- Represents a single task
- If multiple things are changing, they should be related
- ~400 lines or fewer

Ideas adapted from [On Empathy & Pull Requests](#)

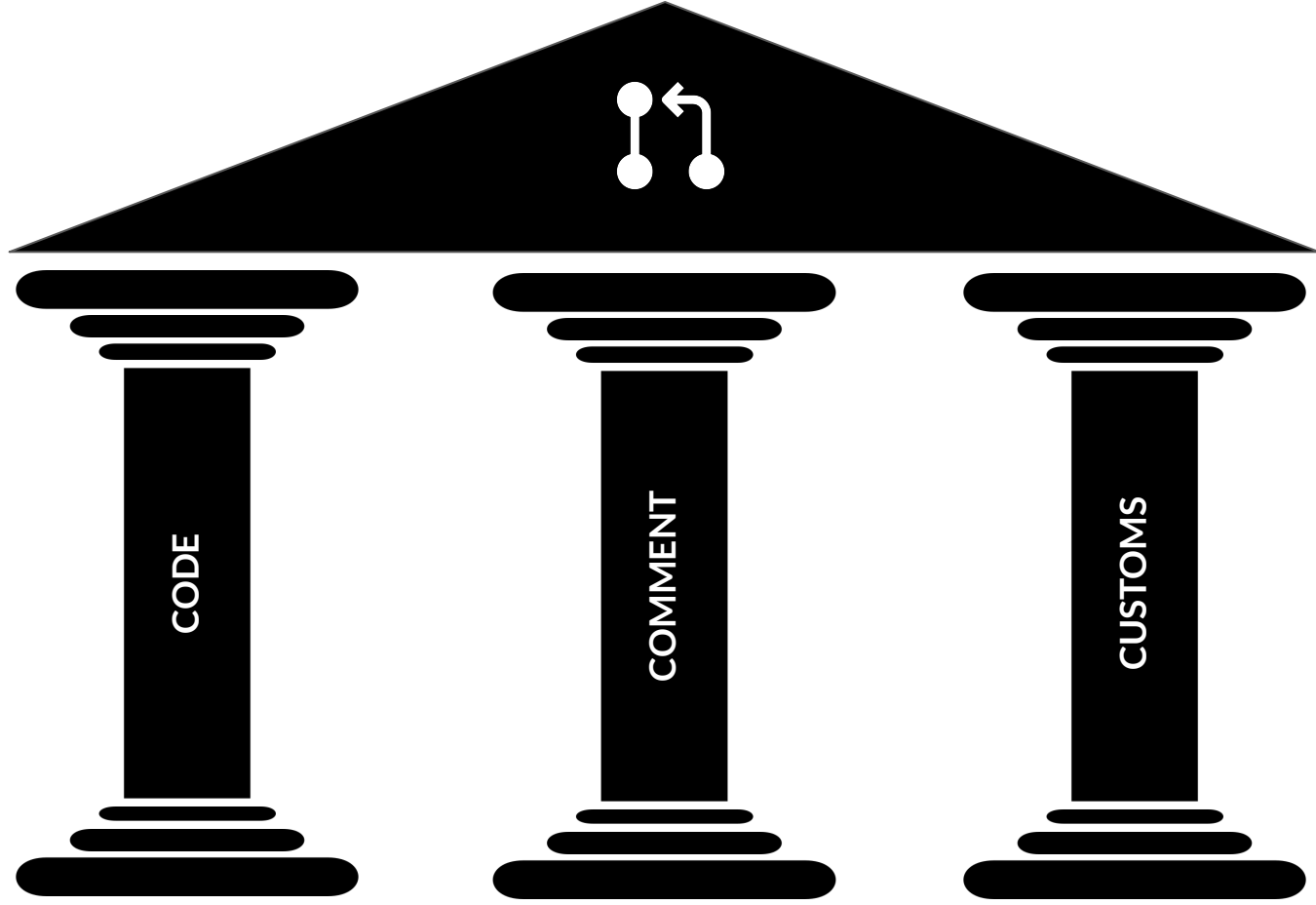
# Authors are responsible for **more than just code**

*Or more than just the files changed.*

They also have the following responsibilities:

- Introducing or documenting the pull request for the reviewer
- Requesting a reviewer
- Complying with other policies (e.g., connecting to the relevant issue)







## Before you file



Please look at the Files Change tab on GitHub 👁👁

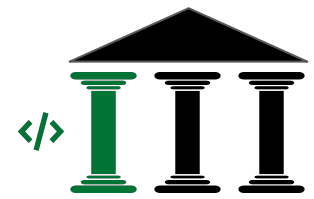
Is your pull request *focused*?

How many lines have changed?

Did some irrelevant files sneak in somehow?

In a later session, we'll cover some techniques for taming your diffs if your Files Changed are likely to strike fear into the heart of your reviewer.

# Code related responsibilities



Any files that get sent for review should be **correct** to the best of the author's knowledge and **meet the team standards**, which may include things like:

- Variable or function naming guidance is followed
- File documentation is up to date



# Comment related responsibilities



- **Provide context.** PRs should have informative titles. Authors should explain what they did and why they ended up with the solution they're proposing to merge, as well as link to relevant material that was consulted.
  - Remember, your reviewer doesn't know about all of the work you've put in!
- **Structure comments to elicit substantive feedback.**
  - In our experience, reviewers have a tendency to want to jump in and comment line-by-line. But maybe you want comments on the bigger picture. Tell the reviewer what you'd like them to focus on!

Ideas adapted from [On Empathy & Pull Requests](#) and [Parker. 2017.](#)



**Pull request templates** can help with comment related responsibilities!

# Customs related responsibilities



Team policy likely dictates that an author is responsible for **requesting a reviewer**.

Beyond that an author should **adhere to all team procedures, policies, or practices** for pull requests, which might include:

- Using specific branch-naming conventions
- Mentioning the relevant GitHub issue in the text of their comment
- Indicating the status of an item in an external project management system

# Draft pull requests as a special case

GitHub has functionality that allows you to file a PR but indicate that it is not ready for review or merging. That's called a [draft pull request](#)!

## Open a pull request

Create a new pull request by comparing changes across two branches. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#).

base: master + compare: update-documentation ✓ Able to merge. These branches can be automatically merged.

**Consolidate documentation**

Write Preview AA B i “ < > ☁ ☰ ☷ ☹ @ 📎 ↶

This Pull Request consolidates documentation from multiple subdirectories and files into a single source of truth. This is a large undertaking, but I am opening this to give us a space to collaborate on the changes.

Before we review everything, it would be great to have the following changes sorted out:

- [ ] Code of conduct
- [ ] Installation and usage guide
- [ ] API documentation
- [ ] Contribution guidelines

Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting them, or pasting from the clipboard.

☑ Styling with Markdown is supported

**Create Pull Request**

**Reviewers**  
No reviews—at least 1 approving review is required.

**Assignees**  
No one—assign yourself

**Labels**  
None yet

**Projects**  
None yet

**Milestone**  
No milestone

Image source: [GitHub blog](#)

# Draft pull requests as a special case

Create pull request

✓ Create pull request

Open a pull request that is ready for review

Create draft pull request

Cannot be merged until marked ready for review

Draft pull requests allow authors to get high-level feedback on a solution or results while signalling to others that the code is not “ready for primetime.”

These can come in handy when it turns out an author didn’t fully understand gotchas associated with an issue or if they get surprising results!