



A Peer Review Expansion

for The Publish or Perish Game

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Expansion Info	ABSTRACT
<div><div> significantly modifies publication process</div><div> extra 20-50min</div></div>	Why it's always THAT player winning the game? He must have found some sort of optimal strategy! In this expansion, you are now capable of giving explicit Peer Reviews to your colleagues' work to stop them from ALWAYS winning the game! Let there be reviewer 2! The introduced review uncertainty makes the original game even more chaotic, adding another layer of game in-depth.

Introduction

Distribute a Review Rule Summary to each player to review. This expansion includes one extra Action Card (a), an extra type of Peer Review Cards (b), and one preprint mark (c). You need to create draw piles for Peer Review Cards. There are three types of Peer Review Cards: Rating Cards, Decision Cards, Rebuttal Cards, see Figure 1.

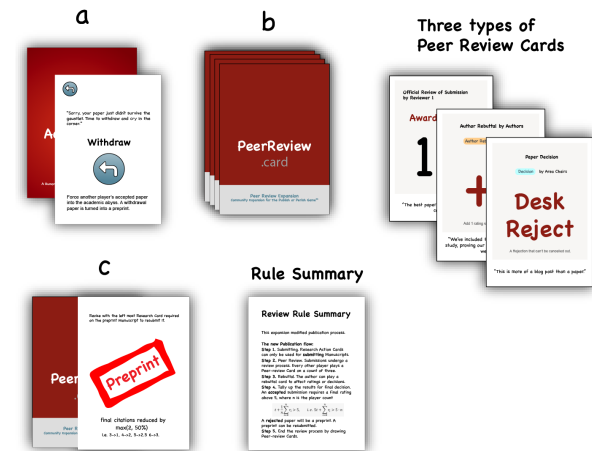


Figure 1. New Cards introduced by this expansion

Method

Setup the review expansion by dealing each player three Peer Review Cards to be held in secret. One can hold exactly three Peer Review Cards.

The New Peer Review Publication Flow. This expansion modifies Bai (2025)'s publication step & ending condition.

(1) Play all the required Action Cards as shown by icons on a Manuscript Card you intend to **submit** it.

(2) **Peer Review.** Other researchers play Peer Review Cards, one for each, to give **ratings or decisions** along with reviews on a count of three. One can discard

Rebuttal Cards and redraw if they can't give a rating or decision. Contradictory Decision Cards can cancel out each other, except "Desk Reject". Jump to Step (5) if a decision is already made.

(3) **Rebuttal.** Rebuttal by playing Rebuttal Cards to alter results.

(4) Work out **final decision** to by averaging ratings r then add rebuttal t if there is no Decision Card. Manuscripts will be accepted if the final rating is above five. See eq.(1), where n is player count and t is the rebuttal bonus,

$$t + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n r_i > 5, \quad i.e. \quad nt + \sum_{i=0}^n r_i > 5 \cdot n \quad (1)$$

A rejected paper will be a **preprint**, each paper marked as preprint loses 2 points of citation. Put a preprint mark next to a preprint.

(5) Announce and celebrate accepted paper.

(6) Draw Peer Review Card to replenish hands. If the Peer Review Card draw pile is depleted, randomly take half of the discard pile to form a new draw pile.

Preprint. A preprint has reduced citation by $\max(2, 50\%)$, i.e. 3→1, 4→2, 5→2.5 6→3.

Revise & resubmit. A preprint can be resubmitted after revising with the left most Research Card required on a preprint Manuscript.

Withdraw. This happens when "withdraw" Action Card is used on an accepted paper. A paper withdrawal returns to preprint state.

Results

When a player gets their fourth Manuscript accepted, or has arbitrary seven Manuscripts faced up, all others will have one more turn before the defense.

Conclusion

Finally! They can no longer always win.

References

Bai, M. H. (2025). The Publish or Perish Game: A Humorous Party Game About Academic Publishing. *Journal of Common Nonsense*.

Appendix A

This section provides additional information and clarifications on how the cards work. It is NOT necessary to read this section before playing.

Action Card – Withdraw

These cards are used to withdraw other player's manuscript (see Figure 2). A withdrawal Manuscript is turned into a preprint.

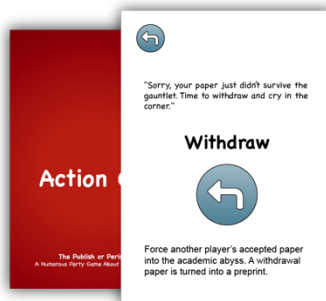


Figure 2. Withdraw Card

Peer Review Cards

There are three categories of Peer Review Cards: Rating Cards, Decision Cards, Rebuttal Cards.

- **Rating Cards:** They aim to simulate the reviewer's rating process by allowing player give scores by playing cards (see Figure 3).

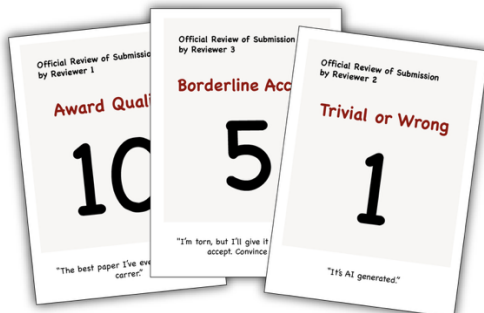


Figure 3. Rating Cards

- **Decision Cards:** They aim to simulate Area Chair decisions on a paper (see Figure 4). These cards have a higher priority than Rating Cards.

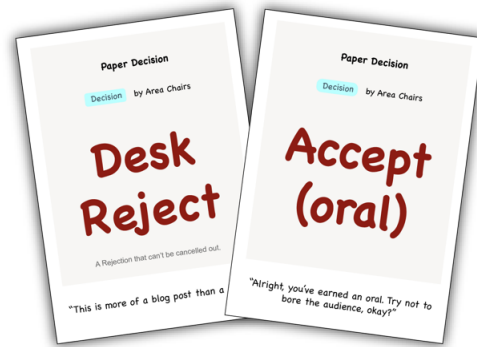


Figure 4. Decision Cards

- **Rebuttal Cards:** Authors can play these cards in the rebuttal stage to alter scores (see Figure 5).

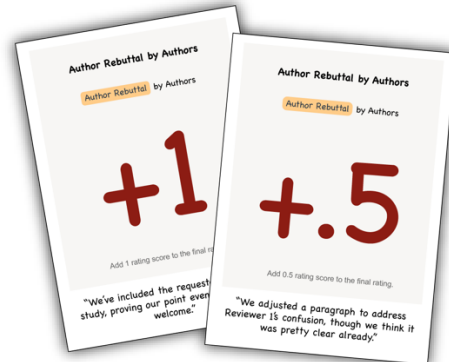


Figure 5. Rebuttal Cards