Module 7.3: Learn - Professional Development

Peer review for publication

The process of peer review is used by journals to assess the validity and impact of your work. After preparing your results to submit for publication and submitting it to a specific journal, the editor of the journal determines whether your results look good enough to be sent out for reviews. If they are, the journal editor will contact other scientists that they think will be well qualified to review the topic you are presenting results on. In this way, they will collect feedback from two to three experts in the field that will or will not recommend to the editor that your work be published. If you get general thumbs up, your paper will be accepted.

This article gives **guidelines for reviewers** ⤷ **(https://plos.org/resource/how-to-write-a-peer-review/)** on how to offer constructive criticism and use language that will be specific enough for the writer to make edits that improve the work.

Peer review for this course

Now that you have an idea of what you are looking for and the language to use for peer review, you are going to give and receive feedback from the mini-paper you wrote in Module 6. Please take a look on Canvas to see which papers you are assigned to review.

For each review you are assigned, please comment on the following:

1. Are there any points or sentences that are confusing to you?
2. Do you feel there are places where the author needs more detail in order to make their point?
3. Are the figures clearly labeled in the figure legend and clearly explained in the results?
4. Can you follow the logic the author used to address their topic? Can you suggest an order for figures/results that you think would be more logical or give a better flow?

5. Are there any statements that you feel need references?
6. Are there any typos, spelling and grammar mistakes, or phasing issues that you can point out to the author?
7. Are there any parts of the paper that you feel are particularly awesome? Go ahead and bring attention to that think it's awesome.

Please make sure to keep the following in mind for language:

1. Keep your comments positive and helpful; remember that we are all in this together
2. Do not suggest things that are out of scope or that you know would take too much time to do
3. Read the entire report once all the way through before making comments so you know whether something yo actually just in a different order
4. Try to be as specific as possible

Taking criticism

It might not always be easy to hear back from your peers about your work, but learning how to accept and respon important skill for your personal and professional development.

This article gives you some information about **how to receive feedback in a healthy way** ⤷ **(https://www.herzin constructive-criticism-healthy-way)** .

The summary is that constructive criticism helps us to identify the weak points of our work so that we can strengt practice. Have an open mind and accept that the only way to improve our ability to communicate is by actually co others in a supportive environment.

Future Goals

Thank you for your time and effort going through this course material with us! We wish you all the best with all of endeavors. All of your instructors are happy to answer questions you have about science jobs and education.

- Do you have questions about graduate school?
- About how or where to interview for jobs?
- About other courses and training you might take if you really like computational biology or genomics or biome

Please add us to your contact list and feel free to ask questions or reach out for advice.