

Should the passive voice be replaced by the active voice in every instance? I don't think so. Both voices have important roles in writing (Strunk & White, 2000, p. 18). For example, the active voice can be awfully repetitive in initiating sentences: "I did ...," "We compiled ...," "We processed ... ." (The reader may also have noticed that I modified the syntax of the last sentence in example 3 to avoid excessive focus on the first person.) The passive voice – even in the aforementioned North American and Western European scientific journals – is still somewhat common in some sections of manuscripts, particularly in the methods and results sections.

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