

Reviewing with Empathy

4 guiding principles

for being a considerate reviewer

Be critical, but constructive

- Focus on improvement: Criticism is always more beneficial when it comes with suggestions for improvement.
- Be considerate: Don't let your anonymity tempt you into being derogatory; never include anything that you wouldn't be prepared to discuss with the author face-to-face.



Meet the deadlines



- Be realistic about how long it'll take to do the job properly.
- Put time aside accordingly. Add it to your diary, and stick to it like you would any other commitment.
- Keep the editor informed. Of course, unforeseen and unavoidable things do come up. If that happens, communicate them to your editor as soon as possible.

Maintain Anonymity

- Confidentiality regarding the paper you're reviewing is a must.
- Protect your anonymity, according to the review model of the journal*. If you happen to know the author, don't be tempted to discuss your review with them.



*In single or double blind journals the reviewer is anonymous during the review process. In journals using Open Review the identity of both authors and reviewers are known throughout.



Avoid bias

- Research is a small world, so if you have any conflicts of interest make them known as soon as they become apparent.

To learn more about how to review with empathy, go to www.wileypeerreview.com

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