

What is Peer-Review?: Video Transcript

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Welcome to the video on What is Peer-Review? By the end of this video you will be able to explain what peer-review is and explain the peer-review process. One thing to keep in mind is that peer-review and scholarly are terms that are often used to mean the same thing. However, while not all scholarly journals go through a peer-review process it is usually safe to assume that a peer-reviewed journal or journal article is scholarly. So what is peer-review exactly? Basically, it is the process used to evaluate research by other experts in a particular field of study to ensure quality. Here's how it works.

A researcher writes an article that they want to get published based on their research. They submit it to a journal that publishes articles related to that field. Then, the editor of the journal screens the paper. If the editor gives it the okay it moves on to a panel of reviewers who are also experts in the field, peers, who review the paper.

The peer-reviewers will be looking for several things. How original is the research? What is the significance to the field as a whole? Does it fill in any existing gaps, provide new information or extend the current understanding of the topic? What is the quality of the paper? Is it repeatable? Could someone else follow the same procedures and methodology? Is there any bias in the article? Bias could appear in the research design, interpretation or execution of the research. How appropriate is the article for the journal in terms of timeliness and topic relevancy to what is covered in the journal? In summary, peer-reviewers will be looking for several things. How original is the research? What is the significance to the field? What is the quality of the article? Is the methodology repeatable? Is there any bias in the research? And how appropriate is the article for the journal? The peer-reviewers will give feedback and make suggestions about the article and whether or not it should be revised, accepted or rejected for publication. If there are revisions it will go back to the author to edit who can then resubmit it to the journal. If it accepted at this stage it will appear in a future issue of the journal.

Overall, this process can take a long time. It is also important to note that not everything in a peer-reviewed journal is peer-reviewed. Things like book reviews, letters to the editor and editorials are often not peer-reviewed. Overall, peer-review ensures that the work being done is well-researched, original and contributes to the field. It also means that when you are doing your own research, that you are using high quality sources that will help you succeed.

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