

The Peer Review Process

Do you need to use peer reviewed sources for an assignment, but you're not sure what this means? This video will teach you all about the peer review process.

Aside from teaching, your profs do a lot of research and paper writing in order to contribute to the body of knowledge in their field.

This process begins with an idea, and then your prof does research and collects data to investigate their idea.

Now your prof will likely present the idea at a conference or a meeting in order to get some informal feedback.

Next they will write up a draft article, or a manuscript, and submit it to a journal in the hopes it will be published.

This is where the peer review process happens.

Peer review is just what it sounds like: it means that the article is edited and reviewed by the authors' peers, who are other experts in the same field.

Peer reviewers might also be known as referees; which is why these articles are sometimes called refereed articles.

These peers are considered experts in the field because they've already created a lot of new knowledge themselves and they stay up-to-date on new knowledge emerging in the field.

When reading the article, reviewers look for originality, significance, and possible errors with the logic, and then send their comments back to the editor with a recommendation on whether or not to publish the article.

Journals usually reject a large percentage of submissions to make sure they're only publishing high quality articles.

The author usually has to make some changes to their work even after it's been chosen by the journal.

Finally the journal is published and purchased – usually by libraries because these journals are too expensive for individual subscriptions.

Now the article can be read by students and professors, who might generate a new idea of their own.

If you have any other questions about the peer review process, watch our videos on how to find peer reviewed journals and the difference between popular and scholarly sources.

You can also ask a librarian. We're happy to help!