

PEER REVIEWERS:

Help Yourself While Helping Others



ASME recognizes the essential contribution of its peer reviewers

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) recognizes and appreciates the important role that peer reviewers play to ensure the robustness of the scientific literature and safeguard against the dissemination of poor science.

You are invited to participate in the **ASME Journal Program** because of your expertise in your field and your ability to offer thorough and accurate criticism of current research in order to move the knowledge of the world forward to benefit all people.

Your efforts as a peer reviewer are valued!

Critical peer review has traditionally been and continues to be one of the cornerstones of the scholarly publication process. **Thoughtful, detailed, and constructive refereeing has the potential to transform the quality of submitted manuscripts.** A good review enhances the value and quality of a paper through its assessment of its:

- Suitability for publication in a specific journal
- Contribution to the field
- Originality and authenticity, without fraud or plagiarism
- Quality of writing and presentation
- Validity of the methodology and data analysis
- Significance of the findings

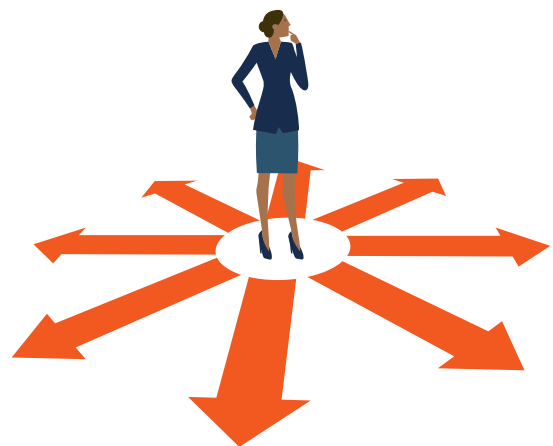
Some tips!

- Do not accept a review assignment if you do not think you will be able to meet the deadline. The editor will appreciate that more than a late review.
- Let the editor know about any potential conflicts of interest.
- Make sure you complete the assignment on time.
- If you do not think you have the expertise to review a specific manuscript, it is best to decline the invitation.

Do the benefits of peer review outweigh the time and effort required? The answer is YES!

Receiving an invitation to review is an honor. It indicates that you are considered an expert in your field. While refereeing a paper can be time consuming and there are no monetary rewards, there are many other benefits when you say **YES** to an invitation to review a manuscript.

Although peer reviewing remains anonymous, there are new initiatives already in place or proposed that recognize the important contribution of reviewers. These include open review, reviewer lists in journals, reviewer certificates, and services that offer reviewer recognition, like Publons, ORCID, and Mendeley.



Find out more! 10 benefits of being a peer reviewer on reverse

10 benefits of being a peer reviewer – A two-way learning process

ASME presents the following benefits for your consideration when you receive your next invitation to review:

1 **EMPOWERS** you to give back to your professional community

Contribute *your* service to *your* community. Reviewers have provided you with feedback on your submitted manuscripts in the past, thereby improving your work. A way to demonstrate your appreciation for their efforts on your behalf is to reciprocate, providing the same service and consideration to your peers. As a rule of thumb, you may want to consider that over the course of a year, it would be reasonable for you to agree to do as many reviews as you receive for your own submissions.

2 **POSITIONS** you at the forefront of research in your field

You will be one of the first to see the latest research in your field of expertise, well before it is available in the published literature. Early knowledge of new ideas, techniques, and approaches can broaden your outlook and may be relevant to your own research efforts – while keeping confidentiality in mind.

3 **SUPPORTS** early career researchers and others in your field

The act of peer reviewing can help you hone your mentoring skills, particularly when working with early career and less experienced researchers. Supporting a fellow researcher with constructive criticism can be a satisfying experience, which can potentially contribute to shaping their career development and successfully sharing their work through publication.

4 **CONTRIBUTES** to the value and quality of journals in your field

Peer reviewing enables you to take an active role in evaluating content for publication and guiding manuscript development for journals you consider important in your field. Your efforts to validate, question, and improve this published research provides a valuable service not only for readers, but also the broader scholarly community.

5 **GIVES** you an insider's view of what journal editors want

This is an opportunity to gain a better appreciation for what makes an article good (or not so good) and understand a journal's philosophy. It enables you to establish a professional relationship with the editors of the journals in which you might like to publish. Editors appreciate, and remember, dependable review work!

6 **HELPS** increase your chances of getting published and reduce the need for revisions

The peer review process can enhance your critical thinking skills and help you become a better writer of all types of scholarly communication – from scientific articles and grant proposals to conference presentations. Your in-depth, critical reviews of articles written by other researchers can be instructive, giving you insights into best practices, how you can strengthen your own submissions, and respond effectively to reviewers' comments.

7 **IMPACTS** scientific advancement in your field

As a reviewer, you play an active and essential role in determining what gets published and improving the scientific quality of these submissions. The published articles you have reviewed may even positively impact journal readership and the number of citations the journal earns.

8 **GUARDS** against the publication of bad science and maintains standards

Your research community needs you! Vigilant reviewing enables you to be a watchdog on behalf of your fellow researchers – to catch and prevent instances of plagiarism, intellectual misconduct, and unethical publication and research practices. This helps keep poor scholarship to a minimum and safeguards the quality of content in your field.

9 **BUILDS** your professional network

Becoming a peer reviewer opens up new opportunities for you and automatically makes you a part of the network of respected editors and reviewers in your field. It builds new connections for future research collaboration. It could lead to an invitation to become a member of a prestigious editorial board or even an editorship.

10 **CONTRIBUTES** to your professional development and career advancement

Serving as a peer reviewer identifies you as a leader in your field and adds to your CV because it demonstrates that other scientists recognize your expertise in the field. It can give you an advantage when it comes to employment, promotions, or research and funding opportunities, or lead to invitations to speak at conferences or submit solicited journal/book content.

