

## Peer review

### ...is critical because it

- Improves the quality of the published paper
- Ensures previous work is acknowledged
- Determines the importance of findings
- Detects plagiarism and fraud
- Plays a central role in academic career development

### ...will benefit you because it

- Keeps you up to date with the latest research
- Stimulates your own research
- Helps you build association with journals and editors
- Is imperative for academic career development

### ...Before you review

- Does the article match your area of expertise?
- Do you have competing interests?
- Do you have time? Make sure you can meet the deadline
- Familiarize yourself with the peer review process on Researcher Academy

## Your ultimate checklist for reviewing a paper

### DO:

- Summarize the article in a short paragraph
- Give your main impressions of the article
- Assess whether the article conforms to journal-specific instructions
- Check the graphical abstracts and/or highlights
- Carefully review the methodology, statistical errors, results, discussion, and references
- Keep your comments strictly factual and don't speculate
- Use short, clearly-defined paragraphs
- Provide feedback on the presentation of data, methodological sustainability and reproducibility, data analysis and whether the conclusions are supported by the data
- Inform the editor if you suspect plagiarism, fraud or other ethical concerns
- Be aware of the possibility for unconscious bias in your review

### DON'T

- Feel the need to comment on the spelling, grammar or layout of the article
- Make ad-hominem comments
- Dismiss alternative viewpoints or theories that might conflict with your own opinions
- Share information about the review without permissions from the editors and authors
- Suggest that the author includes citations to reviewers' (or their associates') work

## Editors' view: what makes a good reviewer?

- Promptly responds to the invitation to review
- Submits the report on time
- Provides a thorough and comprehensive report
- Demonstrates objectivity
- Provides a clear recommendation to the editor