



Peer Review At a Glance

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Authored by:

Maina Wachira, Research and Analytics Associate, The Mawazo Institute

Dr. Fiona W. Moejes, Director of Programmes, The Mawazo Institute

Dr. Rose M. Mutiso, Co-Founder and CEO, The Mawazo Institute

Designed by:

Arafa C. Hamadi, Graphic Design and Creative Advisor, The Mawazo Institute

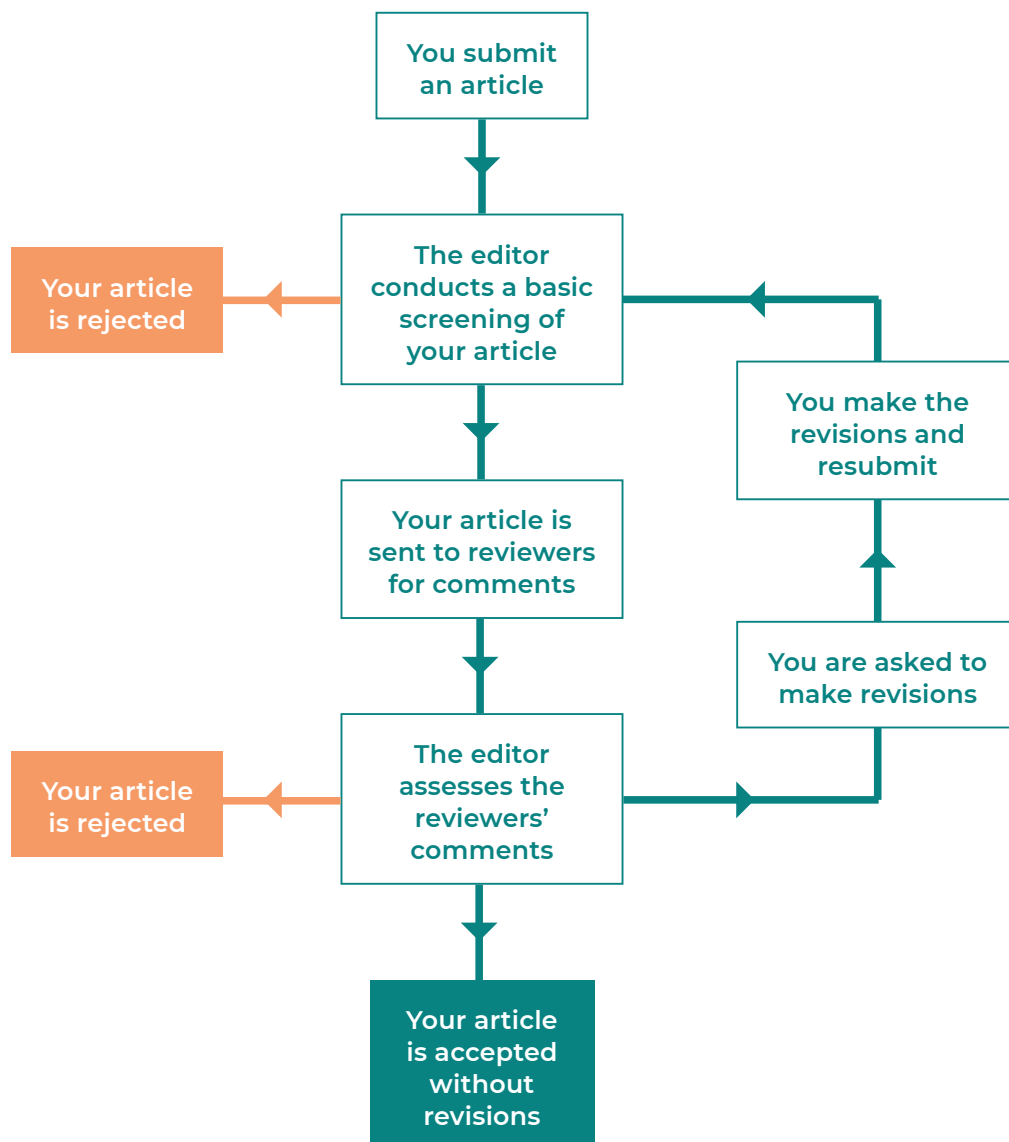
What is Peer Review?

Peer review is the process in which a manuscript submitted to a journal is sent to experts who can evaluate the accuracy, quality, and novelty of its contribution.

Peer review comes in three basic types:

1. **Single blind:** the reviewers are anonymous, but the article's authors are not. This is the most common type of peer review.
2. **Double blind:** both the reviewers and the article's authors are anonymous.
3. **Open:** neither the reviewers nor the article's authors are anonymous.

The Peer Review Process At a Glance*



*Note: This diagram was inspired by [Sense About Science](#) and [Wiley](#).

The Reviewer's Questions

Reviewers can and will ask a wide range of questions about your manuscript. However, you can expect them to ask some questions similar to these:

1. Does the paper fit the standards and scope of the journal it is being considered for?
2. Is the research question clear and answerable?
3. Are the study design, methods, and analysis appropriate to the question?
4. Is the study innovative or original?
5. Does the study challenge existing paradigms or add to existing knowledge?
6. Do the results answer the question, and could they be presented more effectively?
7. If human or animal subjects are involved, were approvals secured and ethics observed?
8. Are the conclusions appropriate given the research question, methods, and data?

The Reviewer Report

Once the reviewer is done evaluating your manuscript, they combine their thoughts into a **reviewer report** addressed to the editor.

The report summarises the reviewer's impressions, comments, questions and final recommendations about whether your work should or should not be published.

The editor then decides which comments will be forwarded to you, the author, and how these comments will need to be addressed before resubmission.

Responding to Reviewers

Once the editor forwards the reviewer comments to you, go through them carefully, share and discuss them with your co-authors, and identify what you can answer.

Then draft a **professional and courteous** response letter that provides **point by point responses to every comment** with evidence to support your positions.

In your letter, you should **also specify any changes you have made to your manuscript in response** to reviewer comments prior to resubmission.

What Next?



If your article is **accepted**:

It will move into the **production phase**. You will need to check final page proofs and may have to make minor edits or corrections.

Your article **will be published**.



If your article is **rejected**:

Don't despair. Rejections are a normal part of academic life.

Use the reviewer comments to **improve your paper**.

Submit your article to another journal on your list of target journals.

These training materials are provided as part of the Mawazo Learning Exchange, a professional development platform for African researchers. The Mawazo Learning Exchange is a programme of the Mawazo Institute, a non-profit research organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya. Mawazo's mission is to support the next generation of female thought leaders and scholars in Africa, and get policymakers and the public engaged with their research.



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