Reviews in Computational Biology

3. Peer Review

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What is Peer-Review?

- Independent evaluation of an academic article, usually by an anonymous expert

- Helps the editor decide what to publish

- Helps the authors improve their work

Why peer-review?

- Be a good citizen
- Stay at forefront of research
- Sharpen your critical thinking skills
- Impress the editor

Duties as Referee

- Assess significance

- Verify accuracy

- Improve clarity

Significance

- **Is the topic addressed important/ interesting?** (Does the review say why?)

- **How original is the review?** (compared with existing reviews of field?)

- **Are the results reported significant?**

Accuracy

- Are all claims backed by evidence?

- Are the evidences relevant/reliable/sufficient?

- Are methods/results appropriate and well-described?

- Is important relevant work omitted?

- Does the review suffer from any bias?

Improve Clarity

- Is the review well organized?

- Do title/abstract accurately reflect content?

- Right level of detail?

- Language issues or typos?

Courtesy

- Criticize the work, not the authors

- Mention also positive aspects

- Offer constructive criticism

- Don't write things that you would not say in person

Examples