Making Your Editorial Decision

When you’re ready to make your decision, refer back to PLOS ONE’s publication criteria and consider any reviewer feedback alongside your own expertise.

As a guide, PLOS ONE:

- Accepts all papers that report correctly on well-performed science and come to conclusions that are supported by data
- Does not reject papers due to lack of novelty, impact, or significant advance to the field
- Considers primary scientific research from almost all disciplines and does not reject research for being too specialized

Decision options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Render this decision if…</th>
<th>What happens next</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accept</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minor Revision</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No changes needed! The manuscript is ready for publication</td>
<td>The manuscript is sent to production and published on plosone.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The manuscript has some textual flaws or requires more detail from the authors</td>
<td>Authors have 45 days to revise and resubmit. If all points have been sufficiently addressed by the authors, the paper may be accepted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Major Revision

The manuscript has the potential to be published but requires the authors to address substantive issues relating to the analysis or interpretation of data.

Authors have 45 days to revise and resubmit. You may choose to send the revised version back to the original reviewers or proceed to a final decision.

### Reject or “Open Reject”

The manuscript fails to meet the publication criteria or requires extensive changes. In some cases, you may clarify your decision as an “Open Reject” and encourage the author to resubmit at any time.

If the authors choose to resubmit at a later date, this will be considered a new submission.

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**Editorial decision letter**

For every decision you will submit a decision letter in Editorial Manager to communicate your decision to the authors. In your letter, you should include:

- The reasons for your decision
- Context for reviewer feedback including which comments are essential for the authors to address
- Which publication criteria the manuscript fails to meet

For more tips on writing and submitting your decision letter in Editorial Manager, see our [Decision Letter guide](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tX351OcpS7WpmUUrY1ZRvaBOpgsi8OcT0kmvnKqNN40/edit#heading=h.1t51tya60ixe).