

# PEER REVIEW IN A NUTSHELL, A DIFFERENT TWIST

IF YOU ARE READING THIS IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE COMIC STRIP BY REDPEN/BLACKPEN. IF NOT, PLEASE READ IT BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER.

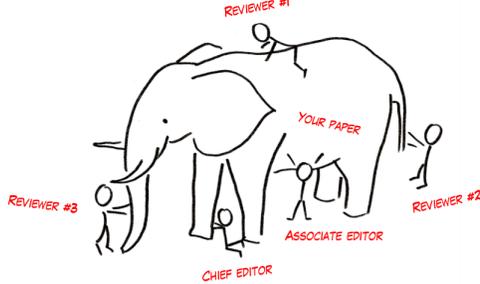
[HTTP://JASONYA.COM/WP/YOUR-MANUSCRIPT-ON-PEER-REVIEW/](http://jasonya.com/wp/your-manuscript-on-peer-review/)

HAVE YOU READ IT ALREADY? GREAT!

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN THINKING ABOUT PEER-REVIEWING IS THAT IT IS A BLIND PROCESS.

I'M NOT JUST REFERRING TO YOU IGNORING THE NAMES OF REVIEWERS AND MAYBE THEY IGNORING YOURS.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF BLINDNESS...



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU THINK YOUR PAPER CONVEYS. REVIEWERS (AND READERS EVENTUALLY) ARE GOING TO INTERPRET IT AND THEY MAY THINK VERY DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU.

THE FIRST PROBLEM TAKES PLACE IN THE ABSTRACT THIS IS WHAT YOU USUALLY TRY TO CONVEY IN IT.



YOU PAINT THE GLOSSY DETAILS OF YOUR RESEARCH. (THE GALLARDO IS FAST, FUNNY AND WITH A REALLY COOL DESIGN)

YOU PROBABLY SKIP OVER THE NOT SO GREAT DETAILS. (IT'S A EXPENSIVE CAR, IMPRACTICAL AND IT CONSUMES A LOT!)

OF COURSE YOU ARE NOT LYING. MAYBE OVERSELLING A LITTLE, JUST TO CATCH THEIR ATTENTION.

AFTER READING YOUR PAPER REVIEWERS ACHIEVE AN IMPRESSION OF IT. ACTUALLY, ONE IMPRESSION PER REVIEWER BUT, FOR THE SAKE OF SIMPLICITY, LET'S TAKE JUST ONE. THIS ONE:



CERTAINLY, THE IMPRESSION IS NOT REALLY FAIR OR ACCURATE BUT IT'S CLOSE TO REALITY.

(YOU ARE PROVIDING A CONVERTIBLE CAR BUT IT LACKS MOST OF THE DETAILS AND QUALITIES THAT MODERN DRIVERS ARE LOOKING FOR).

IT IS AT THIS VERY MOMENT THAT EACH REVIEWER PROVIDES THEIR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

AND IT IS AGAIN THAT BLINDNESS PLAY A ROLE: YOU INTERPRET THEIR REVIEWS IN A PARTICULAR WAY.

YOU THINK THAT REVIEWER #1, #2 AND #3 ARE ASKING FOR THIS...



REMEMBER, THEY ARE NOT ACTUALLY ASKING FOR A SUV, A HYBRID, OR A MICRO CAR.

IT'S JUST YOU INTERPRETING THEIR SUGGESTIONS.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU HAVE FOUR OPTIONS.

**OPTION #1:** TO WITHDRAW YOUR PAPER AND SEND IT TO ANOTHER VENUE (HOPING THEY LIKE VINTAGE GERMAN CONVERTIBLES).



(THIS OPTION IS ACTUALLY A NON-OPTION)

**OPTION #2:** TO CHANGE YOUR SUBMISSION ACCORDING TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS (ALL OF THEM).



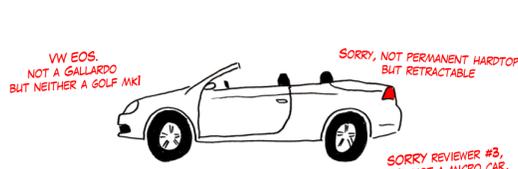
(THIS APPROACH IS A REALLY BAD CHOICE)

**OPTION #3:** YOU CHANGE YOUR PAPER ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS BUT YOU REPLY TO THE COMMENTS AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU HAVE IGNORED SOME OF THEM AND HOW YOU HAVE INTERPRETED OTHERS.



(THIS APPROACH MAKES PLENTY OF SENSE)

**OPTION #4:** YOU IMPROVE YOUR PAPER, PARTICULARLY CLARIFYING WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, AND YOU WRITE A LENGTHY LETTER EXPLAINING WHAT YOU HAVE EXACTLY DONE TO THE PAPER PLUS PLENTY OF EXPLANATIONS FOR ALL OF THE COMMENTS YOU HAVE IGNORED...



(THIS APPROACH IS THE BEST OPTION, IMHO)

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