The publication process

kbrom.an.org/BMI883

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Norms for discussion

- Presume positive intentions
- Engage respectfully
- Listen attentively
- Aim for equal participation
- Respect boundaries
- Provide evidence

Online working agreements

- Use your video camera if possible
- Use names to address each other
- Use features (mute, raise hand, chat, etc) appropriately
- Be okay with silence
- Start and end on time

from The Discussion Project
Author’s point of view

► Write paper
► Submit paper and fill out a bunch of metadata
► Receive reviews and decision
► Revise and resubmit, with response to reviewers
► Acceptance! Submit final documents
► Comb over proofs
► Pay publication charges
► Sign over copyright

Journal’s point of view (Genetics)
Author’s point of view

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Journal’s point of view (Genetics)

- Staff assigns paper to Senior Editor
- Senior Editor: rapid reject or assign Associate Editor
- AE: find two reviewers (maybe asking 8 people)
- AE: decide on
  - accept as is
  - accept with minor revisions
  - reject but encourage resubmission
  - reject
  (Also, explain what’s most important)
- SE review decision (sufficiently detailed?)
- AE: accept, reject, or send out for re-review?
Features of Genetics

- Academic (volunteer) editors
- Associate Editors interact directly with authors and reviewers
- AE’s name published at the bottom of the paper
- All decisions involve two editors
Similar process, but double-blind

AEs interact with reviewers but anonymous to authors

Decision comes not from AE but from a Senior Editor
Nature journals

- Editors are anonymous and full-time staff
Tips

- Suggest reviewers
- Cover letter that concisely explains why your paper is interesting
- Shoot high and take forever, or shoot in the middle and move on with your life
- In revision: would like to avoid re-review (so convince editor that changes are minor) but don’t piss off the reviewers, in case it does go out for re-review
- Make some change in response to each criticism (don’t just comment)
- Feel free to ask editor for clarification
- Be prepared for pain. The process is not gentle.
How to decide where to send a paper?

Why the struggle among editors, reviewers, and authors?