



Preparing, submitting, and publishing a journal article

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Why?



An essential part of research



*"It's publish or perish,
and he hasn't published"*

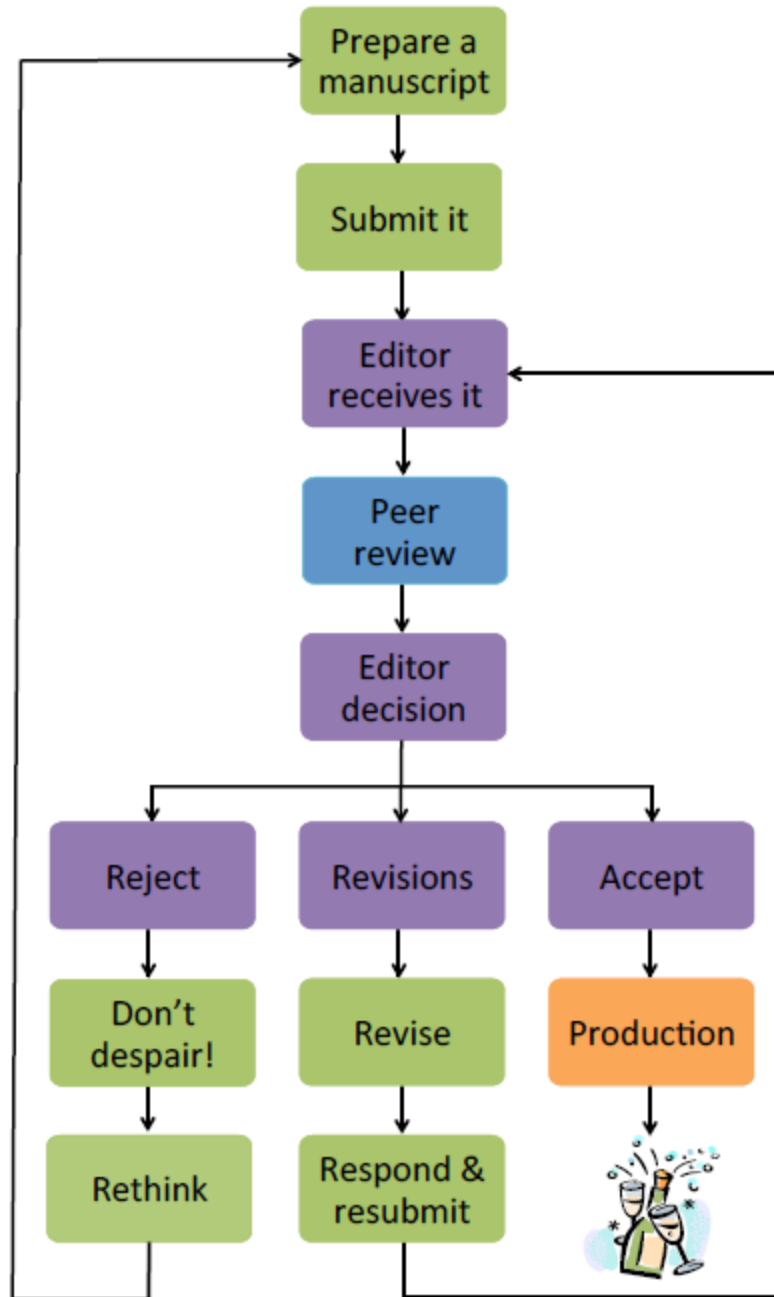
To sustain or further a career

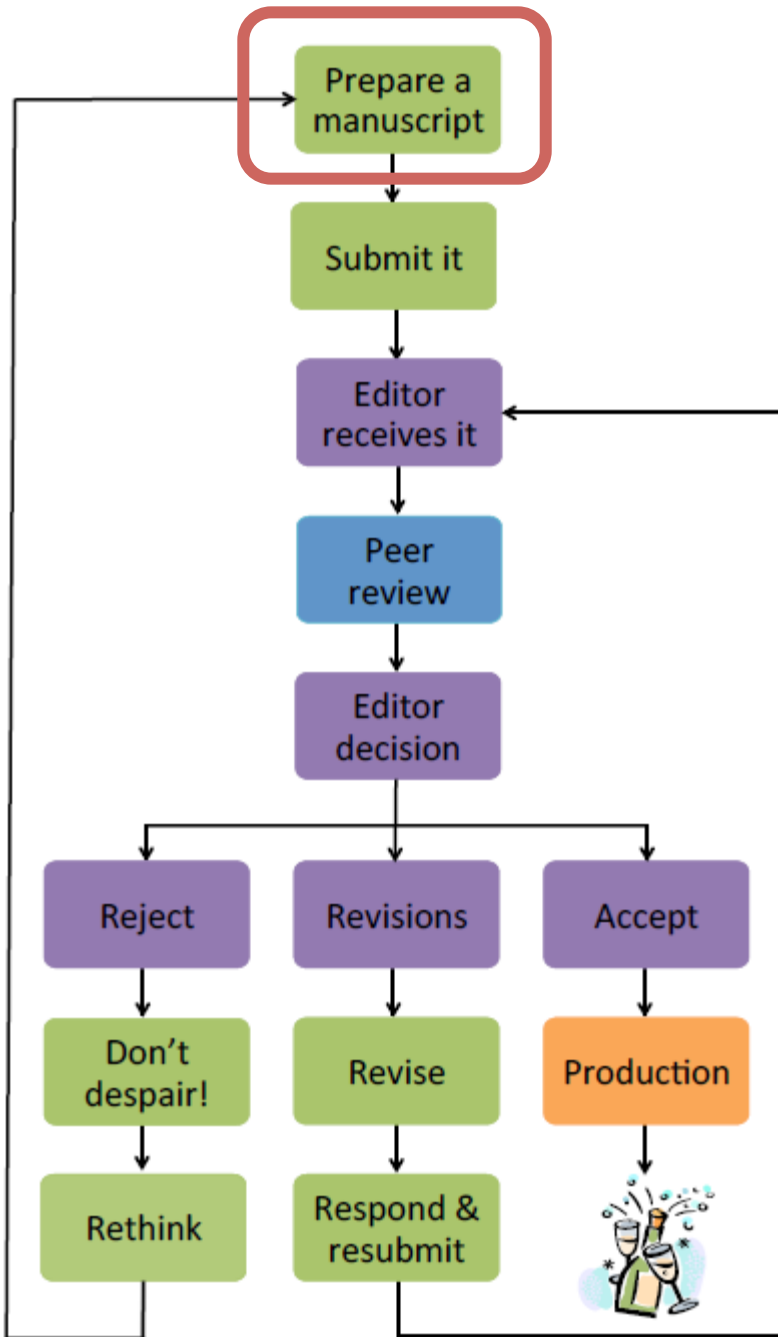
Journal articles

Primary outlet for high-quality original research

Process can be time-consuming & challenging

How?





Check aims & scope
Check other articles in journal
Follow instructions
Be clear, accurate & concise
Get someone to read your manuscript
Do not expect reviewers / editors to correct your English

More on writing

You do not need to trash other people's work to introduce your own

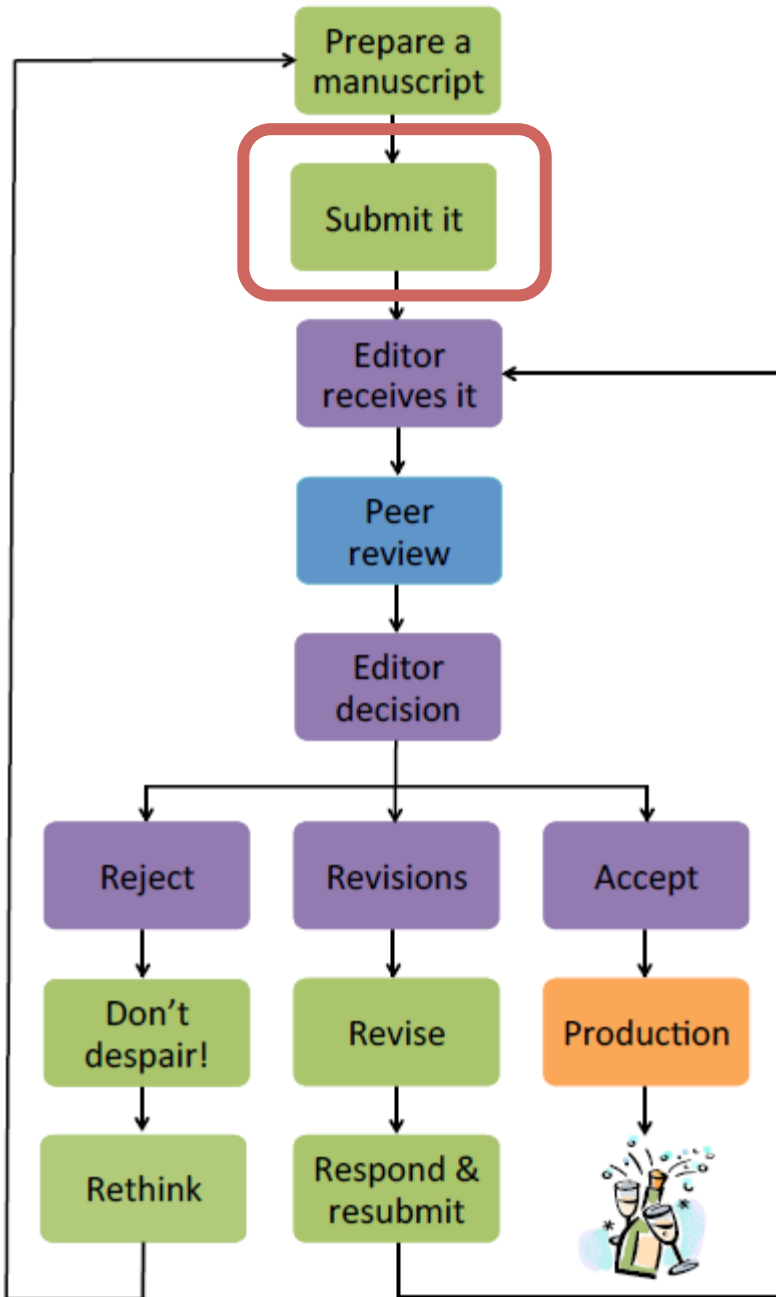
Keep methods in the methods (not the results) and discussion in the discussion (not the results)

Maintain the same order of material throughout your manuscript

For example, if you set out 3 aims, organize the data analysis section, the results, and the discussion, in the same way

Avoid listing articles but providing no information about their content

Cite literature fairly



Follow instructions!
Suggesting referees is optional for many journals and worth doing

You can also block reviewers



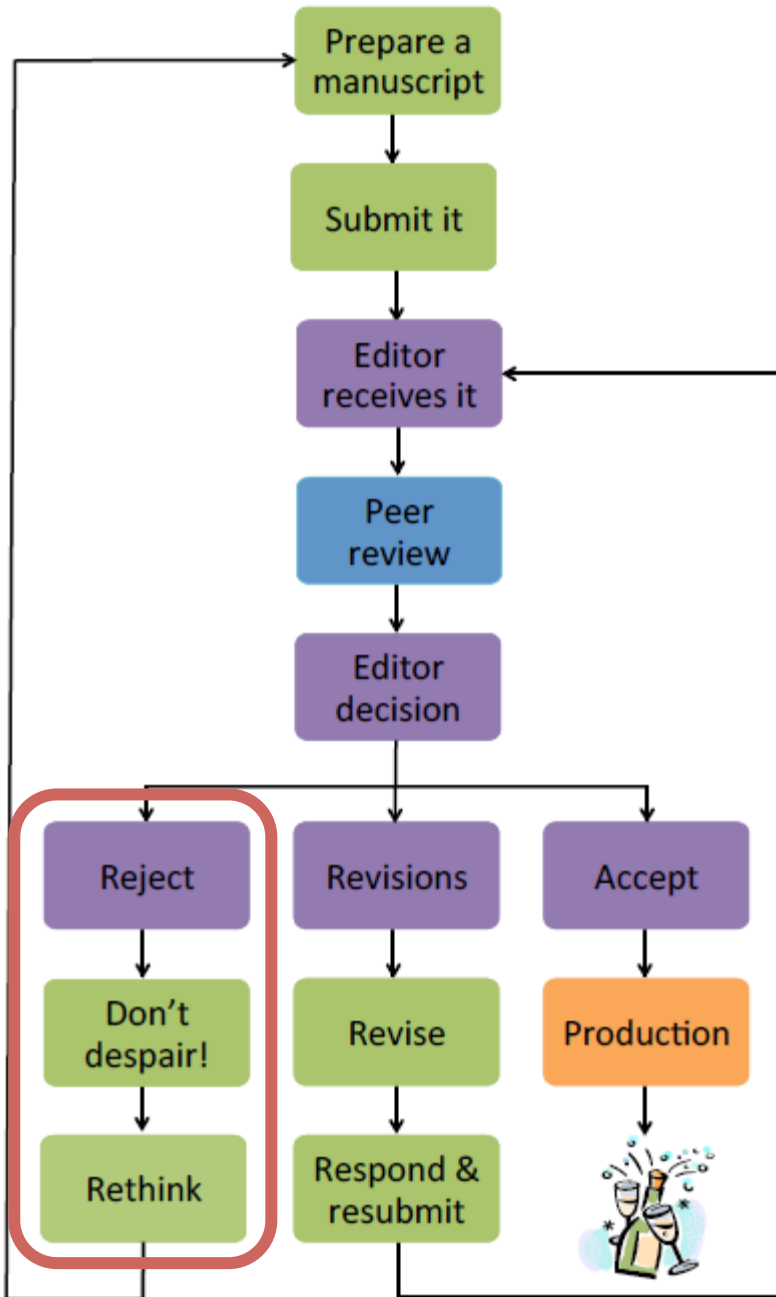
Editor reads ms, decides whether to send it for review

Might use Editorial Board or Associate Editors

Usually 2 or 3 reviewers

Reviewers read the ms critically and make written comments

They can also make comments to the editor



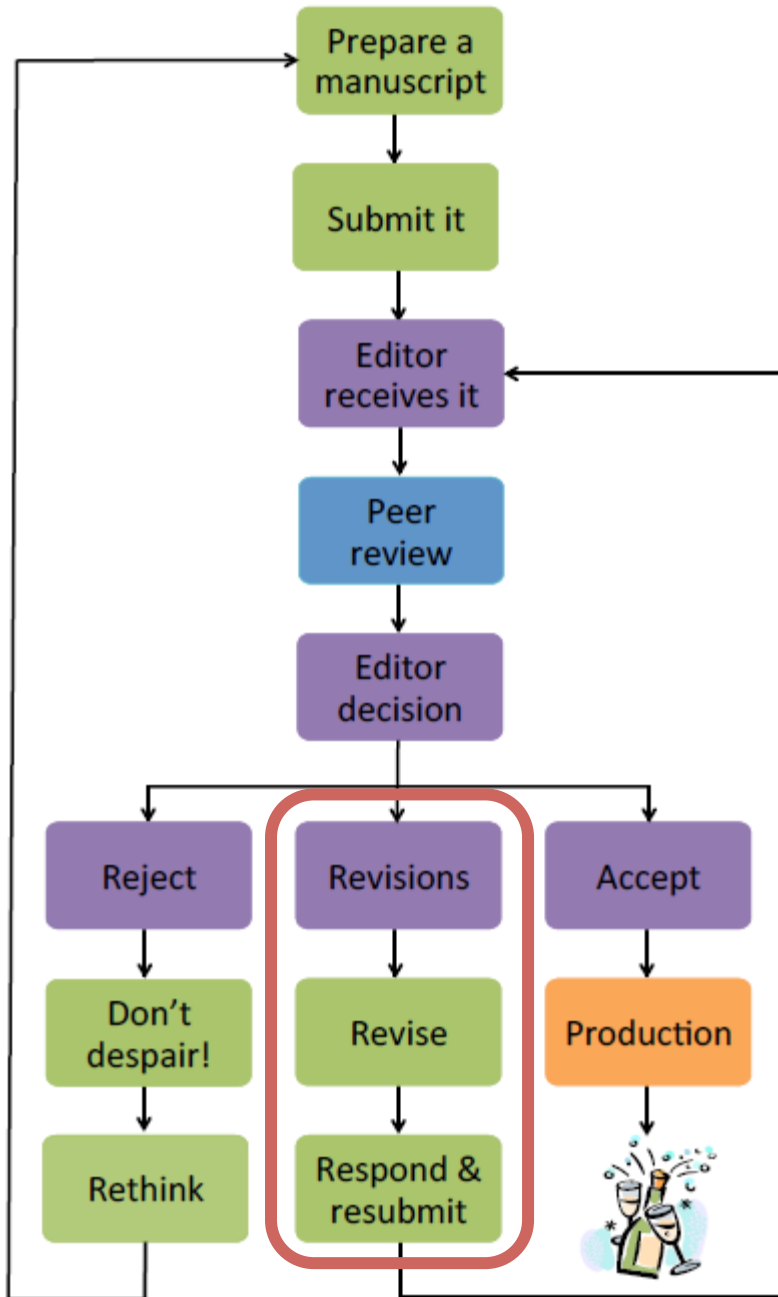
Read comments
carefully

Reflect on reasons for
rejection

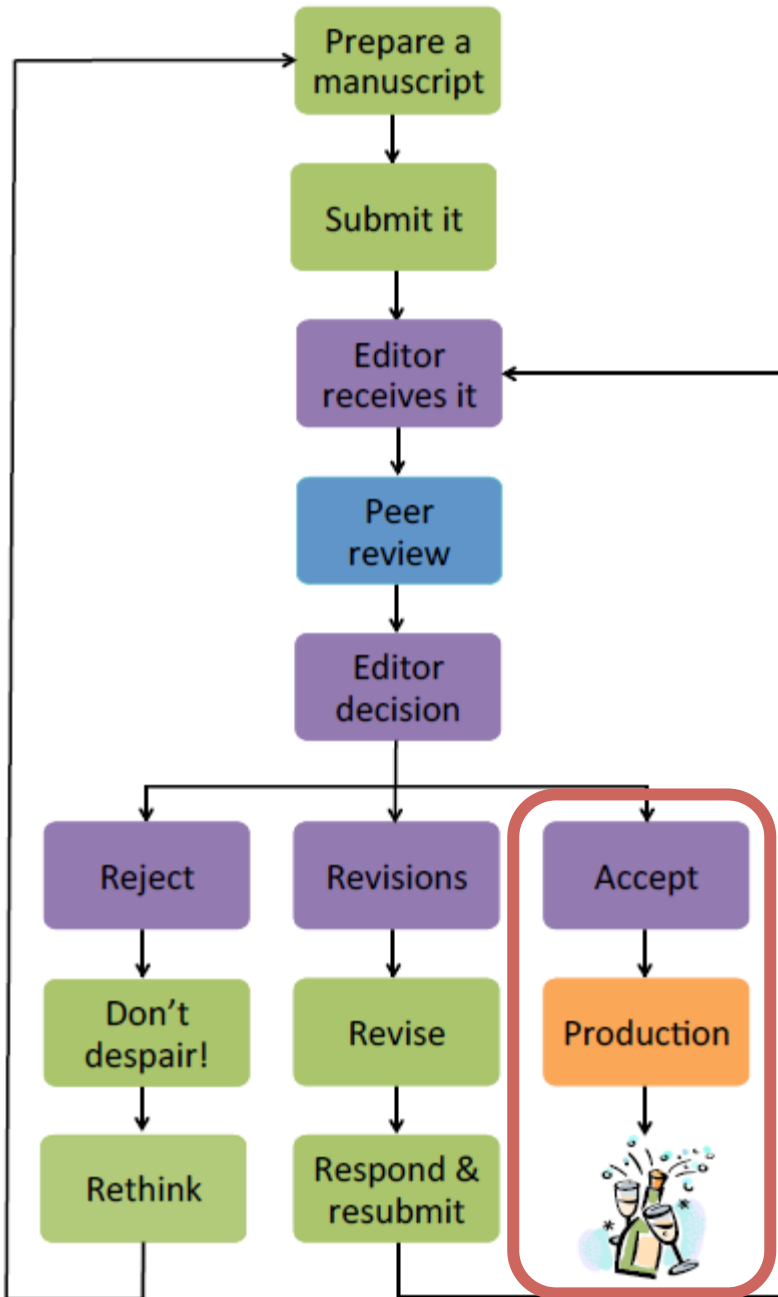
Revise and send it
elsewhere

Do not just reformat
and submit elsewhere

Acknowledge reviewers
& editors



Read comments carefully
Don't panic or get upset
Take comments constructively
All comments help
Talk to co-authors & colleagues
Send a detailed response letter
Be polite and thank the editor & reviewers
Explain changes you made
If you choose not to follow a suggestion, explain why
Do not just rebut ALL comments
Follow instructions!
Acknowledge the reviewers!



Complete copyright declaration & reprint forms

Cover image?

Check proofs carefully and send them back quickly

Ask production editor if you have any queries

Send reprints to people and be pleased that your paper is out!

Remember

You don't start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it's good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it. That's why I say one of the most valuable traits is persistence

Octavia Butler, Locus Magazine, June 2000

Useful resources

www.nature.com/scitable

Publicationethics.org

Instructions for Authors



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