

How to write a good critique

Critiques should be short, one page at the most, single space, font 12. Please, list the title of the paper and your name.

Summarize in one paragraph what you think is the critical point (or the critical points) that the paper makes, or tries to make. How does it advance our understanding of the field, or does it? Do not copy/paste the authors' Abstract. We want your impression.

Do not describe what is presented in the figures of the paper, although you can point out a figure that you think is of critical importance.

Critique the paper. This could take several forms. You may argue that some data are not correctly collected (problems in experimentation), that some data are incorrectly presented, e.g. critical absence of statistical analysis (problems in data analysis/presentation), that authors' conclusion or model is not supported by the data (problems in interpretation). And/Or, you may point out how the advance in the paper will allow further studies to be carried out (the next experiment). Use a few sentences to support your thesis (why you think that there is a problem; how you would do the next experiment).

Sub-optimal layout of figures or poor use of colors are not valid criticisms. If you think, the authors should have used different or additional nucleic acid substrates, cell lines, etc. for their studies, give a reason why this would be important.

Oh, spell-check!