Publishing Scientific Papers: Reviewer Perspective
Publishing Scientific Papers: Why don’t they love me?
Overall problems

• Poor writing
• Lack of organization
• Excessive commercialization
• Use of code names
• Insufficient detail to reproduce
• Wrong journal
Abstract

• Too long
• Not enough detail
• No conclusion
• Includes acronyms
Introduction

• Way too long- do not use your thesis literature review
• Does not include pertinent literature
• Cites minor sources as primary backing for statements
• Failure to cite anything prior to 1990
• Does not conclude with a statement of purpose
Materials and Methods

• Insufficient detail
• Refers to methods that are not generally available (if so- provide more detail)
• Fails to lay out experiment design- replication
• Fails to include statistical analysis- but mentions it in results
Results and Discussion

• Extremely detailed discussion of results that fails to take advantage of well planned tables/figures.
• Think about the reader- interpret do not just report
• Failure to tie results in with previous work in the area
• Mentioning stats without including in the methods
• Overstatement of value of results- for example- “This is the first time this has been reported”
Conclusions

• Should be a concise statement of what your work showed- not a summary
• Bringing in new ideas or even citing papers- not good
• Make sure the data support the conclusions
Literature

• Please check to be sure all are cited
• Complete citations- particularly if they are old, from conferences or international in nature
Tables/Figures

• Think about the reader!!

• Significant numbers (just because Excel gives you 0.000001 % is no reason to use it)

• Organization- use to support discussion

• Titles-should explain the table/figure clearly

• On multiple figures- use the same axis scale so that figures can be compared

• Footnotes – should be clear
So what do you do if they do not love your work?
Resubmittal

• Read comments carefully
• Do not dismiss reviewer
• The reviewer may have comment that is off-base - that means you failed to write clearly
• Think about the journal - did you choose wisely?
• Do not give up!!
Conclusions

• Language - do not be afraid to have paper edited
• Read carefully before submittal
• Choose the proper venue
• Respond to reviewer comments in detail
• Do not five up on our work - it is not completed until it is published