

Distill Reviewer Worksheet - v0.3

This worksheet aims to crystalize what a good [Distill](#) article looks like into questions that we can ask reviewers (and that authors and editors can refer to). We appreciate all the comments we received from the community in designing it!

This version is now frozen.

Advancing the Dialogue

Even the best communicated content is only as valuable as the underlying content.

- **What type of contributions does this article make?**
These contributions can take many forms and are not limited to novel research results. Distill also considers better or different explanations, conceptual progress, new interfaces / tools for thought, and social impact as important research contributions.
- **How significant are these contributions?** [1-5]
Note that significance should be evaluated in light of the length of the submission. In particular, Distill welcomes short, crisp articles with a narrow, but valuable, scope.

Outstanding Communication

Distill holds itself to an extremely high standard for communication.

- **Article Structure.** Is the article well-organized, focused and structured? [1-5]
- **Writing Style.** Is the article well-written? Does it avoid needless jargon? [1-5]
- **Diagram & Interface Style.** (eg. forthcoming Distill style guide) [1-5]
- **Impact of diagrams / interfaces / tools for thought?** [1-5]
(includes visual way of thinking, new abstraction, better notation, analogy, etc)
- **How readable is the paper, accounting for the difficulty of the topic?** [1-5]
- **Comments**

Scientific Correctness & Integrity

"It's a kind of scientific integrity, a principle of scientific thought that corresponds to a kind of utter honesty—a kind of leaning over backwards." -- Richard Feynman

- **Are claims in the article well supported?** [1-5]
Are experiments in the article well designed, and interpreted fairly?
Distill also welcomes thoughtful conjecture as long as it is clearly presented as such.
- **Does the article critically evaluate its limitations?** [1-5]
How easily would a lay person understand them?
- **How easy would it be to replicate (or falsify) the results?** [1-5]
eg. precise explanation, interactive diagrams, notebooks, open source code
- **Does the article cite relevant work?** [1-5]
Note that it's fine for an article to focus on a narrow scope, as long as that is clear.
- **Considering all factors, does the article exhibit strong intellectual honesty and scientific hygiene?** [1-5]
- **Comments**

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