

Open Peer Reviewers in Africa Module III

WHEN

[Insert date]

PREPRINT

Insert the details of the preprint to be reviewed (including authors names, title of the paper, the preprint server e.tc)- DOI: [insert document's DOI here]

WHERE

Zoom: [insert zoom link]

CALL FACILITATORS

- [insert facilitator(s) name(s)]
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ABOUT THIS CALL and PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES (5 min, **insert name of facilitator**)

- This call will last **2 hours**
- This call is **recorded**
- **Live-caption services are available via [Otter.ai](#).** The audio recording and the transcript from this call will be shared with all participants and event organizers.
- This call follows the Open Peer Reviewers in Africa [Participation Guidelines](#).

- Please **silence your mic** so that we don't get too much echo. If you need to ask a question please feel free to jump in or write in the video conference chat tool. This is a **collaborative document** and all workshop participants are invited to take notes collaboratively.
- We will alternate between “silent writing 🖋️” and “open mic 🗣️” discussion to allow everyone to express their feedback. Please write down your thoughts when possible, as it will help us put together a complete review for the authors by aggregating all the discussion points. **Note:** we won't assign specific comments to your name on the review.
- The goal after this call is to aggregate comments from this discussion and review and share a full PRReview on <https://prereview.org> within the next few days.
- Questions?
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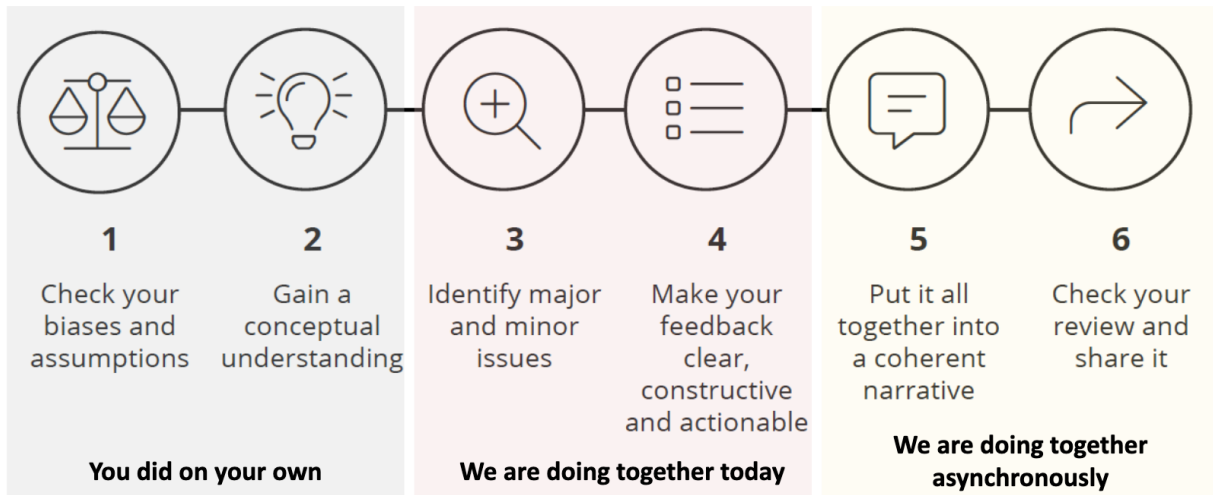
WHO IS HERE (please add your name below)

[Invite the participants to to write their names]

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MODULE III OVERVIEW (5 min, **insert name of facilitator**)

Reviewer Guide: Writing step-by-step



As you may remember from **Module II**, we talked about 6 steps we can take to approach a manuscript review. In preparation for today, we asked you to do **on your own** STEP 1 and STEP 2.

Today, we will do STEP 3 and STEP 4 together. As an **assignment**, we will then work together asynchronously to compose the final review and share it openly (we will guide you through this process).

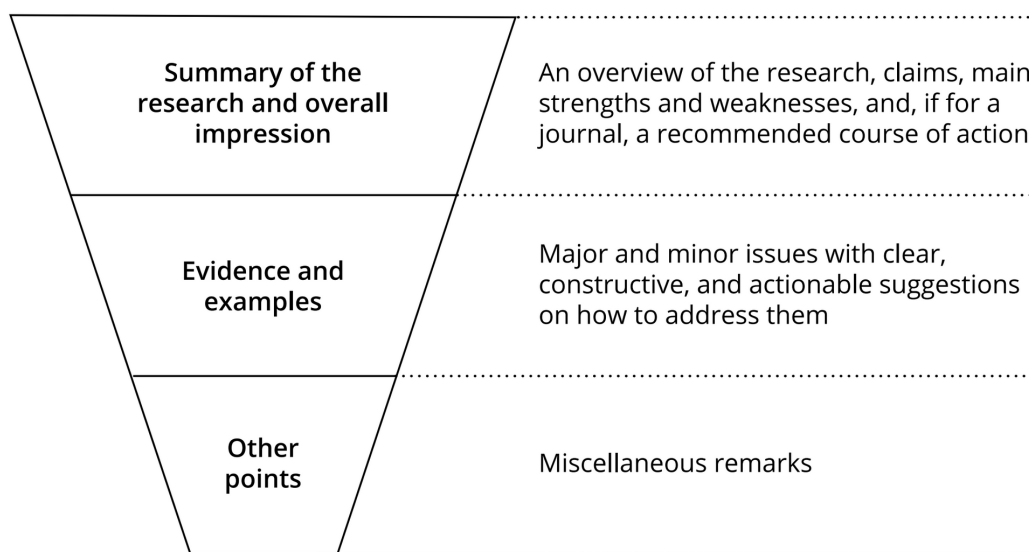
Let's take a few minutes to **share reflections** on STEP 1 and STEP 2 🗣️

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GROUP DISCUSSION 🗣️ + 🗨️ (15 minutes, **insert name of facilitator**)

Let's get started with the journal club discussion!! Remember to **keep your feedback clear, constructive, and actionable!**

We will go through some questions with the goal to then assemble a final full PRereview. The following questions are designed to make it easier to then assemble a coherent full PRereview, following a review structure as represented below (modified [PLOS Peer Review Template: A quick guide for new peer reviewers](#)).



Questions in **bold** are the ones which we will read and answer together during this module. The other questions are there as reference to you all as good guiding questions we can ask ourselves when reviewing a manuscript. A more list version of questions that can guide the review composition can be found in the [Reviewer Guide](#).

Note: We will alternate between “silent writing 🗨️” and “open mic 🗣️” discussion to allow everyone to express their feedback and thoughts in their preferred style of communication.

[Facilitators, please make sure to take notes when comments are made vocally.]

SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH AND OVERALL IMPRESSION

1. What is the main question the study attempts to answer? What's the hypothesis? (open mic time )

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2. What is the approach? What did the authors do to address their research question? 

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3. What are the main findings? 

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4. What did you find most interesting about the research? (optional)

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5. How does the manuscript relate to published literature on this topic? How would the results lead to future research? (optional)

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6. What is one main strength and one main weakness? (optional)

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EVIDENCE AND EXAMPLES (40 minutes, insert name of facilitator)

For this entire section, optionally add an “M” for major issues or an “m” for minor issues next to your answer.

METHODS / DATA (insert name of facilitator)

***7. Are there any issues with the techniques/analyses that the researchers adopt to test the research question?** Are these approaches appropriate to best address the research question? Are suitable controls in place? Were the data interpreted accurately? Are the statistical methods robust? 📝*

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***Note for facilitators:** Now discuss possible suggestions for each issue

***8. Is sufficient detail provided to allow the reproduction and validation of the study?** 🗣️*

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Instructions and context for this document can be found in the [Open Peer Reviewers in Africa Trainer Guide](#)

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9. Does the study conform to ethical guidelines? (optional)

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10. Does the manuscript include new data? Are the data used in the manuscript openly available? If so, paste the link. (optional)

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11. Is the source code for the analyses openly available? If so, paste the link. (optional)

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FIGURES / TABLES & RESULTS (Insert name of facilitator)

Figure XX is pasted below

Table XX is pasted below

12. Write here any specific comment/note about figures/tables (this could be related to the way data are displayed and your ability to understand the results just by looking at the figures including legends, axes labels, and visualization type). 📌

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Instructions and context for this document can be found in the [Open Peer Reviewers in Africa Trainer Guide](#)

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***Note for facilitators:** Now discuss possible suggestions for each issue

13. Does the manuscript text support the data shown in the figures/tables? PLOS reminds us, "Do not just take the figures and tables at face value." (optional)

LET'S TAKE A 5-MIN BREAK

DISCUSSION (10 minutes, *Insert name of facilitator*)

14. Are the conclusions supported by the data or do they overreach? 🎤

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***Note for facilitators:** Now discuss possible suggestions for each issue

15. Are limitations to the approach discussed? 🗨️

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16. Have the authors adequately discussed ethical concerns? (optional)

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OTHER POINTS (10 min, Insert name of facilitator)

FINAL REMARKS ABOUT THE MANUSCRIPT

18. Write here any additional comment you might have (this includes overall suggestions on how to improve the readability of the manuscript). 🙌

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19. Would you recommend this manuscript to others to read? 🗣️

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20. Would you recommend this manuscript for journal publication? 🗣️

Instructions and context for this document can be found in the [Open Peer Reviewers in Africa Trainer Guide](#)

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*21. What one thing from this work have you learned and may bring into your own practice?
(optional)*

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22. Use this space to declare any competing interests - for example you are or have been a collaborator of one of the authors of this manuscript, or you are a direct competitor of the research laboratory conducting the study in this manuscript*

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*At PREreview we ask all contributors to disclose any competing interest (CI) that may exist between a review author (or affiliated organization) and the author(s) (or affiliated organization) of the reviewed preprint.

In the context of our platform, a competing interest is anything that interferes with, or could reasonably be perceived as interfering with, the objective of a review of a preprint on PREreview. Read more [here](#).

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? (insert name of facilitator, 15 minutes)

- Our next goal is to **write collaboratively a full PREreview** that can be openly shared and for which you all can be recognized. To facilitate that we will:

- Begin aggregating all the comments and discussion points from this call into a new document.
- Share that document with you and ask you to contribute to specific sections of the review composition.
- Publish the full PREreview with the contributions of everyone involved (we will have the option to share anonymously, should that be your preference).

Let's look at an example full PREreview that was published as a result of a collaborative discussion such as this one we had today.

On PREreview: <https://prereview.org/preprints/205fffb7-84db-4754-aca4-f1827c820be5>

Same full PREreview on Zenodo: <https://zenodo.org/record/6323771#.YmCGkJLMJ-U>

ASSIGNMENT (we will also share this information in an email)

● REGISTER FOR PREREVIEW

- Please go to [PREreview](#) and click on Log in/Sign up. You will need an ORCID iD (don't have an ORCID iD yet? Register for one [here](#)). Here is a [short video to guide you through the signup process](#).
- Once you complete your sign up, you'll be assigned **two persona profiles**:
 - a Public Persona with name and ORCID iD imported from ORCID, and
 - an Anonymous Persona with a made-up name (e.g., Yellow Elephant), which will allow you to publish PREreviews and comment on others' PREreviews anonymously. The Anonymous Persona is active by default. So if you want to publish rapid and full PREreviews with your name, remember to change your profile to the Public Persona (we will guide you through this).

● JOIN THE NEWLY FORMED AFRICARXIV REVIEWERS COMMUNITY

- [AfricArXiv Reviewers](#) is a new PREreview community that we hope to launch with your contribution. To join the community, please click on **“Ask to join the community button”** once you are logged in.
- **FILL OUT A RAPID PREREVIEW**
 - A **rapid PREreview** is a structured review made up of 13 yes/no/n.a./unsure questions designed to capture the essence of the review.
 - To **fill out a rapid PREreview** of the preprint discussed in this module, you can watch this [video](#). We have already requested feedback on this preprint, so to fill out a rapid PREreview you can skip the first few steps and [go directly to the split screen page](#) and click on the **Add PREreview(s) button**.
 - Once the rapid PREreview is submitted you'll be prompted to write a full PREreview. For the purposes of this workshop, we will compose a full PREreview on this preprint together, **so do not complete this step**.

Here you can read more about [how to use our preprint review platform](#).