



How to comment on preprints

Research is most impactful when others can see and build on it. Preprints — citable scientific research shared publicly before peer review — let scientists receive feedback early in the research process. A public preprint comment can take the form of a question, critique, or recommended resource that may be beneficial for both the authors and readers alike.

What is “modular review”?

Now that research is increasingly multidisciplinary, it's nearly impossible for one person to have all the expertise to do an intricate, comprehensive peer review. A modular review focuses feedback on specific areas that relate directly to the reviewer's expertise. Not only may this targeted feedback be more useful for the authors, but it's also a more manageable approach for those doing the reviewing.

Modular comments don't need to be lengthy or complicated! Consider leaving preprint comments if:

- You're reading a preprint and have a thought or question
- You're doing a journal club for your lab or graduate course
- You've used the data or methods in a preprint and could or could not replicate/reuse any results or tools

Instructions

There are many preprint servers that you can use to find recently released preprints. Fortunately, some preprint servers — such as bioRxiv and medRxiv — have incorporated the Disqus platform to make the commenting process seamless and easy.

Commenting with Disqus:

1. Using either bioRxiv or medRxiv, navigate to the preprint you'd like to comment on.
2. Below the list of authors, you should see a comment icon. Click the icon to open the commenting tab in the Evaluation dashboard on the right.
3. You can comment as a guest or log into one of the compatible platforms. Note: To comment as a guest, choose the Disqus icon and select “I'd rather post as a guest” checkbox.
4. To post your comment, click either the comment button or the right arrow button.

If Disqus isn't an option on your preprint server of choice, you can use other tools like PREreview or Hypothesis to post your comments.

We recommend emailing the corresponding author to notify them of your comments.