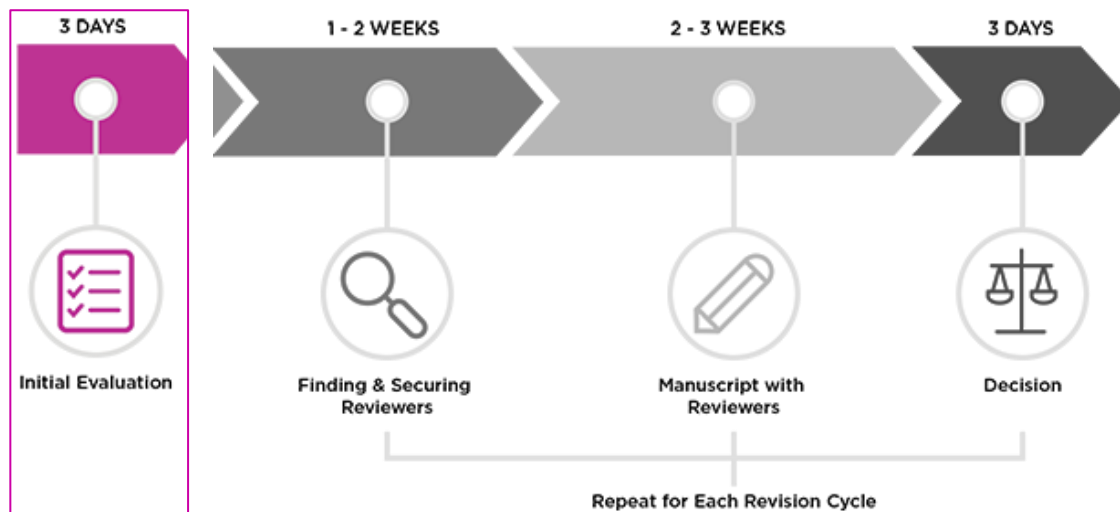


Initial Evaluation



✓ Key Takeaways & Contents

→ Assess the manuscript using:

- The publication criteria
Go to: [Publication Criteria](#)

- Additional information provided by staff editors
Go to: [Information for the Academic Editor](#)

- Your own subject area expertise

→ Decide whether to send out for peer review or reject without review

- Go to:** [Peer Review or Reject?](#)



PUBLICATION CRITERIA

The publication criteria are the same for *PLOS Climate*, *PLOS Global Public Health*, *PLOS Mental Health*, *PLOS ONE*, and *PLOS Water*. When you are conducting your initial evaluation, run the manuscript through the following criteria:

1. **The study presents the results of original research.**
2. **Results reported have not been published elsewhere.**
3. **Experiments, statistics, and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail.**
4. **Conclusions are presented in an appropriate fashion and are supported by the data.**
5. **The article is presented in an intelligible fashion and is written in standard English.**
6. **The research meets all applicable standards for the ethics of experimentation and research integrity.**
7. **The article adheres to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability.**

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PLOS CLIMATE Publication Criteria What We Publish Submission Guidelines Editorial and Publishing Policies	PLOS GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH Publication Criteria What We Publish Submission Guidelines Editorial and Publishing Policies	PLOS MENTAL HEALTH Publication Criteria What We Publish Submission Guidelines Editorial and Publishing Policies
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If a manuscript clearly doesn't meet the publication criteria, it's ok to reject without inviting external reviewers. In your [decision letter](#) to the authors, please ensure you have provided enough information for the authors to understand the reason for the decision, clearly articulating your reasoning and citing the specific publication criteria that were not met.

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Generally, you should decide on your next action within four days of agreeing to handle the manuscript. On the next page are some recommendations for when to reject without review.

✘ Reject without review when

- There are serious methodological or analytical flaws that cannot be addressed by peer review
- Conclusions are unsupported by the data
 - For example, insufficient sample sizes
- Flawed, weak, or insufficiently detailed hypothesis, study rationale, methods, analyses, or results would prevent reviewers from properly evaluating the work
- The work is redundant without clearly referencing and discussing the existing literature
 - Exceptions: purposeful replication studies or reanalyses that clearly discuss the existing literature. See publication criterion 2.
- Apparent revisions would take the authors more than a few months to complete
 - This could include additional experiments, extensive reframing or recontextualization of the work, or extensive reanalysis.
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✔ In all other situations, please seek external peer review.



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Frequently Asked Questions & Comments

What should I do if the manuscript has poor language? Should it be rejected?

Publication criterion 5 can be a challenging nuance to navigate. If the methodology of the paper is rigorous but the language is poor, we encourage you to include this feedback in your revise decision rather than rejecting it so the authors have an opportunity to copy edit. If language concerns persist after revision, you may consider a reject decision at this time if it does not meet criterion 5. If you are at all unsure about applying this or any of the other criteria, [contact](#) the journal office.

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The manuscript does not have any results.

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