

## Review proforma for open reviews on the COPPHA repository

This proforma has been developed for the [Coalition for Open Publishing of Public Health in Africa](#) (COPPHA). You can use this proforma to review each part of a journal submission. While the sections in the proforma are designed to assess a scientific article, it can also be used to assess other types of submission, including editorials, reports, policy documents and presentations. You might want to explore more detailed ways of reviewing a scientific article by accessing this free online course [Critical Appraisal](#).

\* Indicates required question. Note: the text boxes will expand automatically to allow detailed responses

1. What is the title of the submission you are reviewing? \*

2. Please specify if you have, or think you might have, any bias or conflict of interest in reviewing this submission? \*

3. Please give a brief description of the topic, objective and main findings of the submission. Briefly highlight its strength(s)\*

4. Do you have any concerns about the way the submission is structured? For a scientific paper this might include abstract, background, methods, results, discussion and conclusions. For a report, editorial or presentation this might include identification of the aims, a clear focus, storyline, logical progression and conclusions\*

Mark only one

- ☐ Major concerns
- ☐ Minor concerns
- ☐ No concerns

If you have any concerns about the structure, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

5. For a report, policy document or presentation, do you have any concerns about the content? This might include the purpose, the evidence presented, the arguments made, conclusions or recommendations made, or, for a presentation, whether visuals are used effectively.

- ☐ Major concerns
- ☐ Minor concerns
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Not applicable

If you have any concerns about the content, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

6. For a scientific paper, does the abstract provide a concise summary of the study, including introduction, methods, results, and conclusions? \*

Mark only one

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ Not applicable

If you have any concerns about the Abstract, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

7. For a scientific paper, do you have any concerns about the Introduction or Background to the study? These might include concerns about the literature review or whether a research question or hypothesis has been adequately stated. \*

Mark only one

- ☐ Major concerns
- ☐ Minor concerns
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Not applicabl

If you have any concerns about the Background or Introduction, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

8. For a scientific paper, do you have any concerns about the Methods section of the paper? These might include concerns about selection, measurement or confounding biases or the statistical analyses. \*

Mark only one

- ☐ Major concerns
- ☐ Minor concerns
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Not applicable

If you have any concerns about the Methods section, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

9. For a scientific paper, do you have any concerns about the Results section of the paper? These might include concerns about selection, measurement or confounding biases or the statistical analyses - or if each table, figure or graph is fully understandable as a stand alone. Are the results reported against the research question stated initially. \*

Mark only one

- ☐ Major concerns
- ☐ Minor concerns
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Not applicable

If you have any concerns about the Results section, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

10. For a scientific paper, do you have any concerns about the Discussion or Conclusions section of the paper? These might include ethical concerns, usefulness or generalisability of the findings and if the study limitations have been adequately identified. \*

Mark only one

- ☐ Major concerns
- ☐ Minor concerns
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Not applicable

If you have any concerns about the Discussion or Conclusions sections, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

11. For a scientific paper, are transparency and reproducibility addressed: Is the research process transparent, and are data or code available for others to reproduce your findings?\*

Mark only one

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partial
- ☐ Not applicable

12. Do you have any concerns about the references or citations? This might include their relevance to the submission, completeness in supporting claims, credibility of sources, accuracy of citation details, or adherence to a consistent style.\*

Mark only one

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

If you have any concerns about the references or citations, or would like to make any comments, please list them here.

13. Language: Do you have any concerns about the writing style or use of language?

Mark only one

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. What is your recommendation?\*

Mark only one

- ☐ Approve without revision
- ☐ Approve, require minor revision
- ☐ Approve, require major revision
- ☐ Reject

15. Final comments: please add any final comments that you think would be helpful to the authors. If you have recommended Approve with revisions, or Reject, please give your reasons.\*