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Comments are short letters to the editors from readers questioning either the results reported or the experimental methods used in a specific article. Usually, a reader will approach the Editorial Office or the Editor-in-Chief of a journal, if he/she finds an article intriguing. In such circumstances, the Editorial Office may invite the reader to write a short and reasoned Comment on the article. After consideration and review by the Editor-in-Chief, the Comment may be published, in which case the Editorial Office will approach the authors of the article in question and invite

them to prepare a Reply. If the reader's complaints are substantiated, the authors or the Editorial Office may consequently publish a Correction or retract the paper entirely.

Both comments and replies will be refereed to ensure that

1. the comment addresses significant aspects of the original paper without becoming essentially a new paper;
2. the reply responds directly to the comment without becoming evasive; and
3. the tone of each is appropriate for a scientific journal.

A comment will first be sent to academic editors for an initial check. If it is approved, it will be sent to the author of the original paper, who will be given the opportunity to write a reply. Normally, the editor will provide a deadline for receipt of the reply in order to assure prompt publication of the discussion. If a reply is submitted in a timely way, the editor will have both the comment and reply reviewed. If the original author chooses not to submit a reply, the editor may elect to proceed without a reply.

In most cases, editors will invite previous reviewers to review both the Comment and Reply (if available). After receiving review reports, editors will send the Reply and review reports to the author of the Comment. The author will be given only one chance to revise the Comment.

The revised Comment and review reports will be sent to the authors of the Reply. The authors will also be given only one chance to revise the Reply. Lastly, editors will send the revised Comment/Reply to the academic editor for a final decision.

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