

EDITOR'S NOTE: JAESE'S MANUSCRIPT REVIEW CRITERIA

Abstract

Authors submitting manuscripts to the Journal of Astronomy & Earth Sciences Education, JAESE, need to be aware that each submission judged as potentially viable for JAESE is electronically checked for plagiarism before being reviewed by at least two peer reviewers. Each peer reviewer is instructed to provide a formative assessment of the article and a confidential summative recommendation to the Editor. The five specific criteria the Editor and Peer Reviewers use for evaluating manuscripts are the extent to which each submitted manuscript: (i) makes an important contribution to the discipline; (ii) has a clearly stated research question that is adequately motivated by the existing scholarly literature base; (iii) has study methods and participants tightly and appropriately aligned with the research question; (iv) presents evidence that clearly supports the conclusions forwarded; and (v) has an accessible writing style, grammar, syntax and voice for a wide audience of scholarly readers.

Scholars that publish in high quality journals, such as the *Journal of Astronomy & Earth Sciences Education*, JAESE, are able to expand their influence across the world to other scholars and teaching experts. As such, it is JAESE's mission to provide a stable and reliable venue for double-blind, peer-reviewed, scholarly articles that present significant discipline-based scientific results. The best articles are derived from ethical observations, theoretical constructs, and systematic experimentation in science education and evaluation if they both advance understanding of astronomy and Earth sciences education and are likely to have a significant impact on the discipline or policy. In contrast, JAESE does not generally publish program evaluations or articles solely describing programs, program components, courses or personal experiences as research articles.

Authors submitting manuscripts need to be aware that each submission judged as potentially viable for JAESE is electronically checked for plagiarism before being reviewed by at least two peer reviewers, who volunteer their time and expertise. Each peer reviewer is instructed to provide a formative assessment of the article with particular attention given to how to improve the article's suitability that can be shared with authors, and to provide a confidential summative recommendation to the Editor as to the article's status as: *Accept*, *Accept with changes*, *Reject but encourage resubmission*, or *Reject*.

There are five specific criteria the Editor and Peer Reviewers use for evaluating manuscripts. These are the extent to which the manuscript:

- i. makes an important contribution to the discipline;
- ii. has a clearly stated research question that is adequately motivated by the existing scholarly literature base;
- iii. has study methods and participants tightly and appropriately aligned with the research question;
- iv. presents evidence that clearly supports the conclusions forwarded; and
- v. has an accessible writing style, grammar, syntax and voice for a wide audience of scholarly readers.

Manuscripts are evaluated on their intellectual content without regard to authors' race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy. It is JAESE's intention that our manuscript peer review process be formative and provide helpful and actionable suggestion to authors on how to improve the work whenever possible. If a manuscript is of high quality, but is not tightly aligned with the journal's aim and scope, the Editor will often make suggestions about other publishing venues that might be appropriate. These suggestions in no way are intended to imply whether or not any particular manuscript submitted elsewhere would be found acceptable by that journal. We hope that your experiences submitting your manuscript to any journal turns out to be a positive experience. Moreover, we hope that JAESE continues to provide the premier venue for publishing and archiving valuable discipline-based astronomy and Earth sciences education research.

Timothy F. Slater, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

As we close out the second volume of the journal, we would like to take this opportunity to publically recognize the volunteering scholars of the JAESE *Editorial Advisory Board* and the JAESE *Board of Peer Reviewers* for their support and efforts during 2015. Without these two groups of dedicated individuals, JAESE would not be the high quality journal that it is today.