About journals

and conferences*

Where do we publish?

- Academic journals
- Conference proceedings
- Professional journals

(for the most part, the same rules apply to each)

What do we need to know about them?

Big things

- Ethically sound (predatory)
- Relevance to your topic
- Likelihood to be read*
- Trustworthy editors & board
- Open access availability
- Publish your article type

Small things

- Publication fees
- Formatting
- Review/publishing time frames
- Peer review methodology
- Impact factor*

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Predatory – ethical publishing

What makes a journal predatory?

- High or hidden publication fees
- Inadequate or non existant peer-review
- Fake or misleading metrics (like Impact Factors)
- Made-up editorial boards
- Hijacking other journals brands
- Spamming authors
- Learn about COPE: https://publicationethics.org

More (and a list): https://predatoryjournals.com

Relevance

How to tell if a journal is relevant?

- You have been reading lots of articles (right?)… make note of which journals publish the ones you find valuable (and cite).
- Advisors can help
- Do a keyword search on Web of Science (or …) and check the journals listed most frequently
- Use a resource like: https://www.scimagojr.com

Relevance

- Once you find a few seemingly relevant journals, check their scope page then author information page:
  - https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rbri20/current
  - https://journals.sagepub.com/aims-scope/EAB
  - https://www.jstatsoft.org/index
  - https://www.journals.elsevier.com/computers-in-human-behavior

Author instructions

- Article types
- Formatting
- Guidance on style
- A recent trend: many journals no longer require a specific format on submission. Specific formats are required after acceptance.

Likelihood to be read

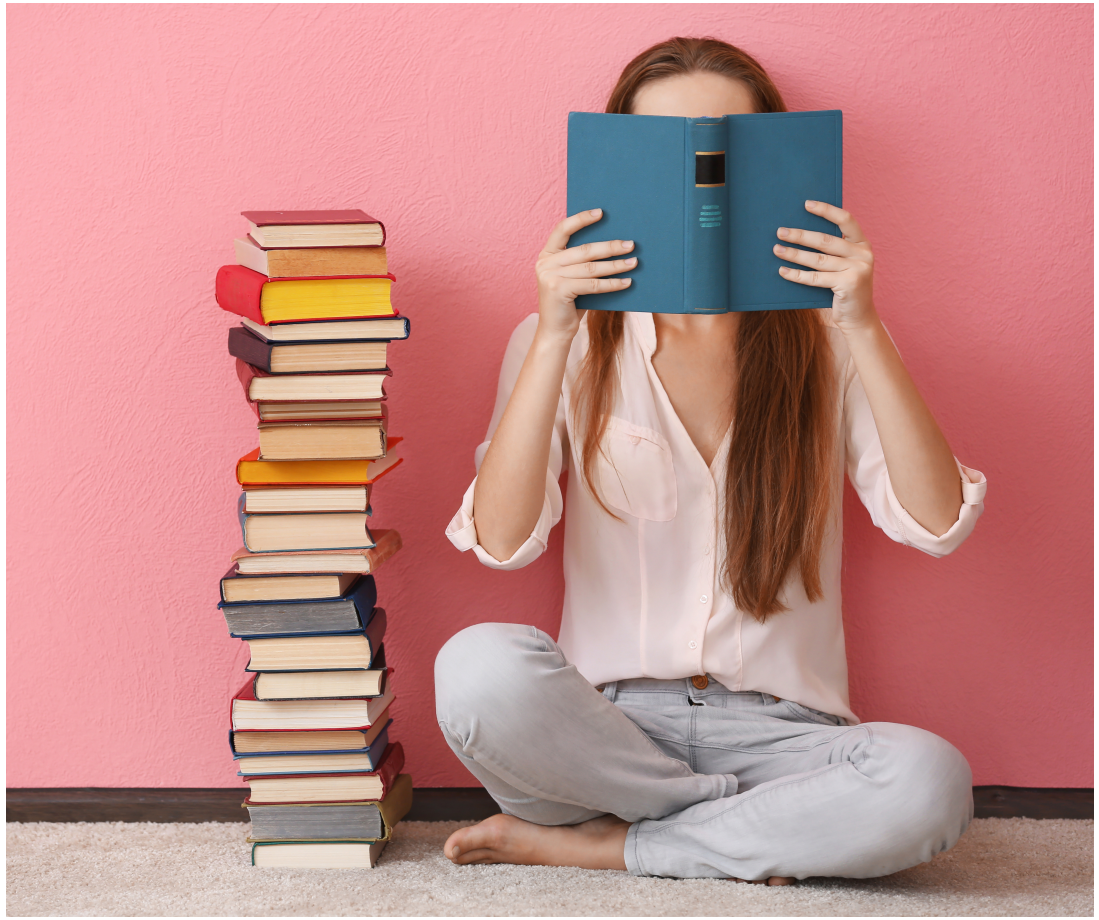
- Open access is changing things…
- Does the journal allow author keywords? (Most do, some springer journals don’t).
- You can influence how much your paper is read…
  - Social media (Twitter, ResearchGate)
  - Conference presentations
- Other ideas?

Open access…

- Open access shifts the burden off publishing fees to the authors (or their funders/institutions) rather than subscribers.
  - Good or bad?
- Open access is required by some funders (and they usually pay for it)
- Gold vs. Green.
  - Gold = pay now for immediate access
  - Green = no fee for free access after an embargo period (6 months to 2 years)

Open access…

- Open access articles are more widely available (and read) than traditional articles.
  - Better for your research, better for you (citations are an important mark of quality)



Review methodology

- Single-blind (reviewers know who the authors are)
- Double-blind (Reviewers don’t know who authors are)
- Open review (Author and reviewers are public; the review – or part of it – is published with the paper).
  - I think this is the long-term trend.

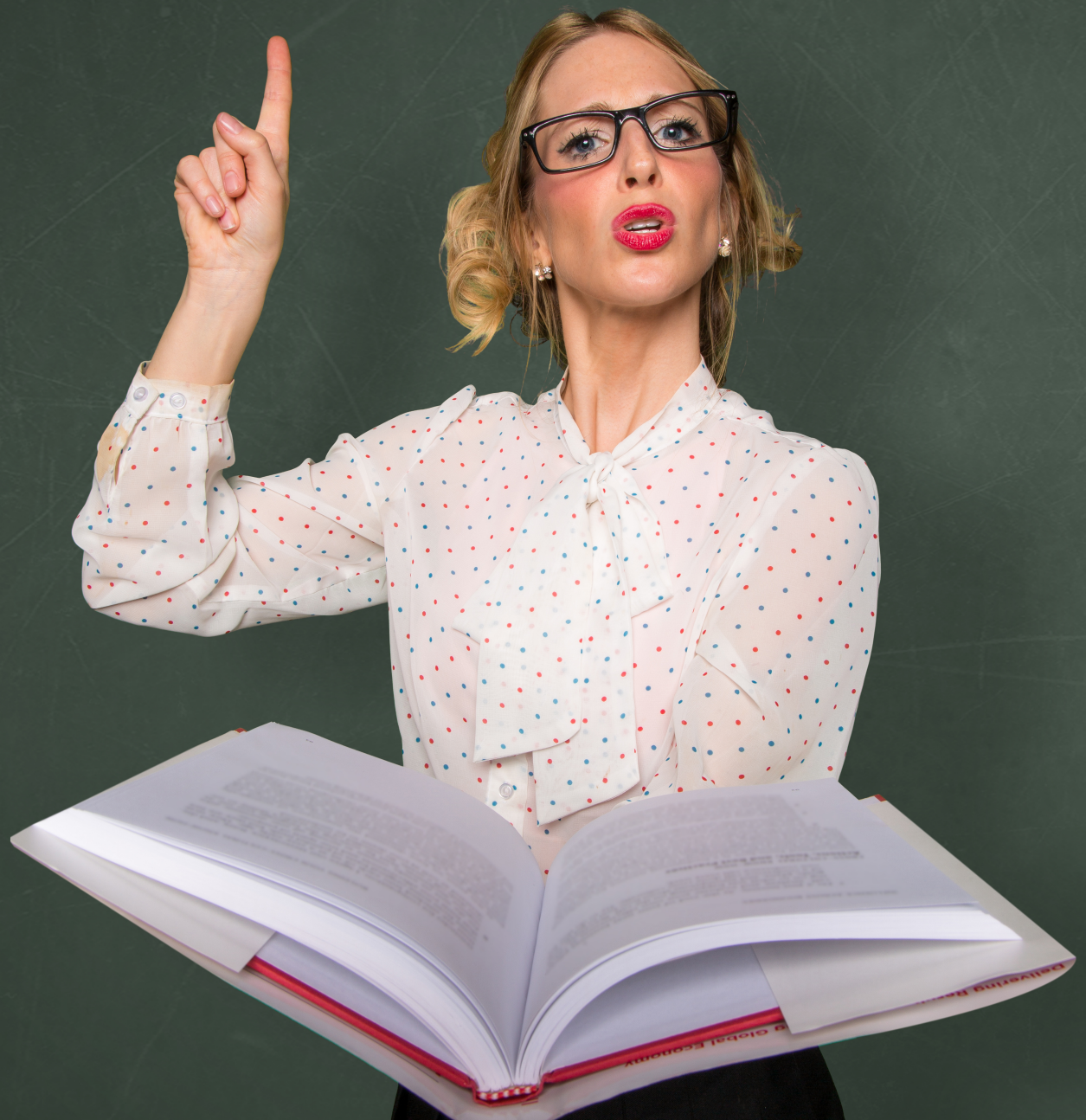
Impact factors

- Impact factors are supposed to tell us how good the articles in the journal are.
- They are calculated based on citations.
- Publishing in high Impact Factor journals is supposed to mean your article will be well read and cited
- Bias towards publishing positive results may be the result of seeking to drive up impact factors (at least partially)

Impact factors

- Impact factors still matter… for better or worse
- There are alternatives … good and bad
- It is common for predatory journals to cite unethical IFs or similar metrics
- Alternative metrics (altmetrics, plumix) are providing a more robust alternative
- Use of IF in Slovenia … https://www.sicris.si (IF sorted into quartiles, used to calculate points for publication)

Submission



KNOW THE RULES!

Submitting articles

- Varies based on publisher/journal (publishers seem to be unifying across journals)
- There are several submission systems out there
  - None of them are any good.
- Typically need separate files for the text (and Latex if used), figures, (sometimes tables), *supplemental material*
- Double blind reviews require you to separate title pages from the manuscript and anonymise

Submitting articles

- Some journals require a cover letter – this is your chance to introduce the article and sell it to the editors.
- Be direct – tell them why the article is right for their journal.
- Be polite – they (probably) don’t get paid for their time.

Supplemental material

- Supplemental material is extra information to support the findings or describe the process
- Data
- Long tables
- Analytical or program code
- Questionnaires, interview protocols, etc…
- …

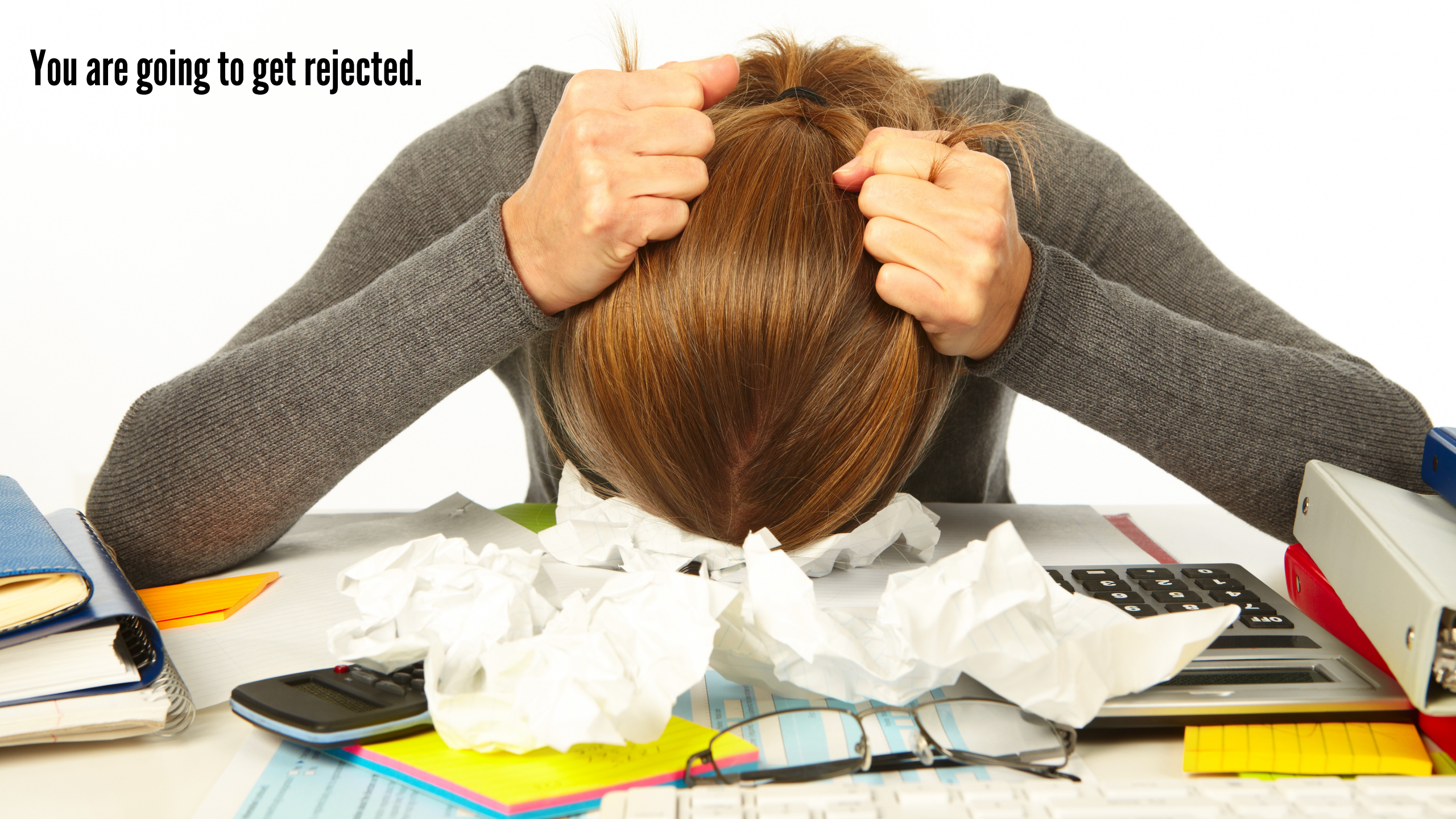
Finalising your submission

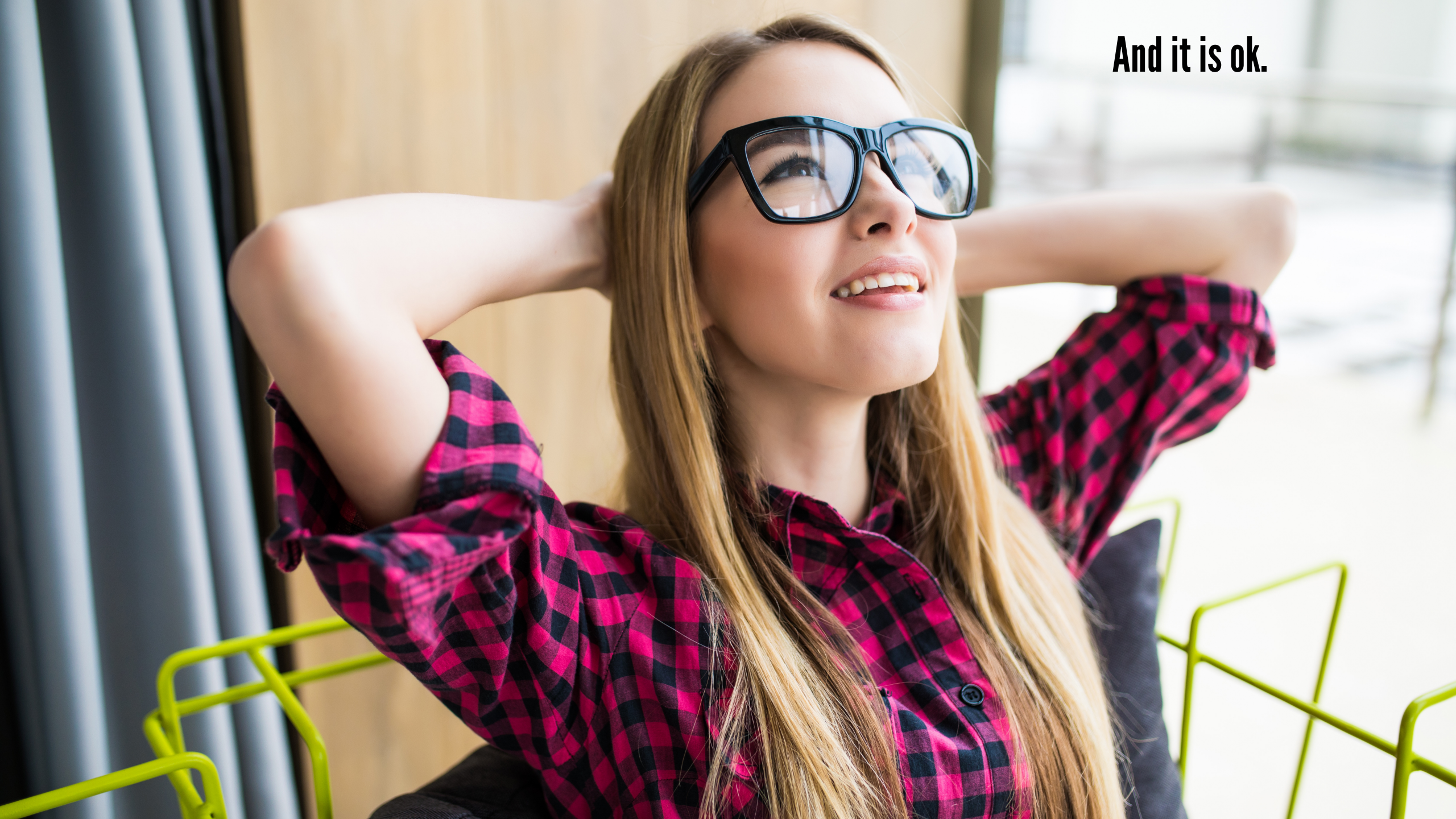
- Most systems give you a previous of your submission in PDF or HTML format to confirm.
- This is your last chance to check for errors, image quality, formatting.

The review process

(and reviewing)

You are going to get rejected.




And it is ok.

Review

- The purpose or peer-review is quality control and to assess relevance to the journal
- 2-3 persons should review your paper and provide constructive feedback.
- First task is to identify fundamental flaws (methodology, design) that would disqualify the paper from being published
- Second task is to identify weakness in such a way that authors can address them
- You are expected to include their comments in an update or rebut their comments

Responding to reviews

- You should address each comment directly and note any changes made.
- If you decide not to make a change, be very convincing why, and consider updating your text to clarify your position.

Comment	Response
p4. line 16: authors claim method y is sufficient but they didn't address method x, please clarify	We added references to method x and identify its shortcomings that are addressed by method y. The updated text reads… "…."
Table 6: the inclusion of median values and IQR add too much data to the table and are unnecessary	We disagree, due to the skewed data we believe it is important to include multiple central tendency indicators. In addition, our analytical models comparisons are the ratios between median values. Having them readily available in the text will help readers understand the effect sizes we report.

Conducting a review

h/t: Eric Hansen, co-editor of Bio-products Business. This Journal will soon publish guidelines for PhD student reviewers.
I will share the document when published.

Your goal is to make sure…

- the article is suited for the journal
- No fundamental flaws
- Literature supports objectives
- Methods support objectives
- Results follow methods
- Conclusions follow results

To remember

- The document you received is confidential
- Read it more than once (take some time away from it)
- You typically have a detailed review with specific comments, general notes to the authors, and a private note to the editor.

Conducting a review

- Editors would like to know if the results are a meaningful contribution. Remember that negative results are meaningful too.
- There are lots of guidelines on reviewer ethics:
  - Start here: https://plos.org/resource/ethics-for-peer-reviewers/
- Discussion is appropriately robust but is supported by the evidence and remains within scope.
- Contact the editor with questions.

Assignment 5: Find 5 journals

- Identify 5 journals that may be suitable outlets for publications from your PhD.
- List the articles and state why you think they are appropriate in 1 to 2 sentences. Provide Journal name, publisher, URL to the journal and a link to the journal information on scimagojr.com (if it is listed).
- Choose 2 of the 5 journals.
  - Select 2-3 articles from those 2 journals that you think are related to your field and support your decision to submit there. Provide formatted citations to those articles.
- Due 10.11 @ 17h.