

## EDITORIAL

# Article Rejection - The Horror, The Horrors

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Article rejection. What a pain it causes. Especially for the budding new scientists who are submitting their first few articles. The research done perhaps even got a distinction at undergraduate level or postgraduate level but don't seem to fit in to the journals it was submitted to.

But wait. It is not rejected due to the editors' whims. What can be the common reasons? Well, let's look at some of it:

### 1. Failing the pre-review stages

This can be due to reasons such as plagiarism, not following author instructions, poor grammar, irrelevant or references > 5 years old, among others.

### 2. Not falling within the Aims and Scope of the journal

For example, submitting a pure science article in a social science journal. Rejection before review is therefore inevitable.

### 3. It's incomplete

The article only contains observations but the study is not complete yet. Some journals do offer short communication where the authors can submit preliminary observations and also clinical audit. Example is Medical Journal of Malaysia.

### 4. Poor methodology and/or data analysis

This is in relation to poor validity and reliability aspects of the study. This can also be due to wrong statistical tests used or inadequate sample size.

### 5. Poor discussion and conclusion

The reasons provided for differences in finding from previous studies are sometimes generic such as different populations or not logical. The data does not support the discussion and conclusions. Important negative findings are also frequently not discussed.

### 6. Language

Remember using the proper language, especially the grammar, is of utmost importance. Doing proof reading before submission can often help an article chance to at least get to the review stage.

Therefore, all is not lost. Try your best and don't give up.

## REFERENCES

1. Peter Thrower. Eight reasons I rejected your article [cited 2023 February 9]. Available from: <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/8-reasons-i-rejected-your-article>
2. Medical Journal of Malaysia. Instructions to authors [cited 2023 February 10]. Available from: [https://www.e-mjm.org/notice\\_contributors.html](https://www.e-mjm.org/notice_contributors.html)