Researching Responsible and Trustworthy Natural Language Processing

Reviewing in NLP

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20 October 2025

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Advice on reviewing

1. Keep track of your thoughts *as you read*
   - Write them down **& keep them** until after the author response
     ⇒ Can be informal, these are for **yourself only**
   - Note confusions, questions, reactions, suggestions, etc.
     ⇒ Keep track of **where** (section, line number, etc.)

From: Last Minute Reviewing Advice - ACL 2017 and Data et al. (2017).

Advice on reviewing

2. *Be specific* & provide evidence
   - Avoid vague language
     ⇒ Ex: many, much, several, "for example", "and/among others"
   - Vagueness unhelpful for everyone
     ⇒ For authors to respond to
     ⇒ For program committee to make decisions with

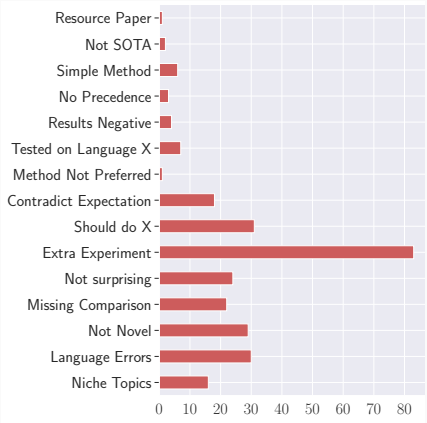
	#Claims			%Supported claims		
	Pos	Neg	All	Pos	Neg	All
CoNLL 2016	2.01	1.94	2.95	27.97	87.03	51.82
ACL 2017	2.62	2.91	5.54	26.66	78.58	47.72
COLING 2020	2.70	2.78	5.38	35.04	74.71	45.43
ARR 2022	2.73	2.25	4.98	30.37	75.54	44.69

   - Provide substantiation for any claims
     ⇒ where? why?

From: Last Minute Reviewing Advice - ACL 2017 and Guo et al. (2023).

Advice on reviewing

3. Be both critical *and constructive*
   - Point out what you liked
     - ⇒ but stay calibrated to your scores & reasonable
   - Offer suggestions for improvement
     - "if the glass was half (or more) empty, what would it have taken to make it full?"



From: Last Minute Reviewing Advice - ACL 2017 and Purkayastha et al. (2025).

Examples

For more examples:
https://naacl2018.wordpress.com/2018/01/20/a-review-form-faq/

- Note: the review form has changed substantially since 2018 and for your assignment you should follow the new format

References i

Scientific Data, Kirstie Whitaker, and The Ludic Group LLP. 2017. Kirstie Whitaker - Better Science through Better Data 2017 keynote scribe images.

Yanzhu Guo, Guokan Shang, Virgile Rennard, Michalis Vazirgiannis, and Chloé Clavel. 2023. Automatic analysis of substantiation in scientific peer reviews. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023*, pages 10198–10216, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Sukannya Purkayastha, Zhuang Li, Anne Lauscher, Lizhen Qu, and Iryna Gurevych. 2025. LazyReview: A dataset for uncovering lazy thinking in NLP peer reviews. In *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 3280–3308, Vienna, Austria. Association for Computational Linguistics.