

# Publish or Perish

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# Why?

- Dissemination
- Career success, tenure
- Credible record of accomplishments for funding agencies
- Professional development of students and post-doctoral fellows

# Writing a Paper

## ➤ What's your point?

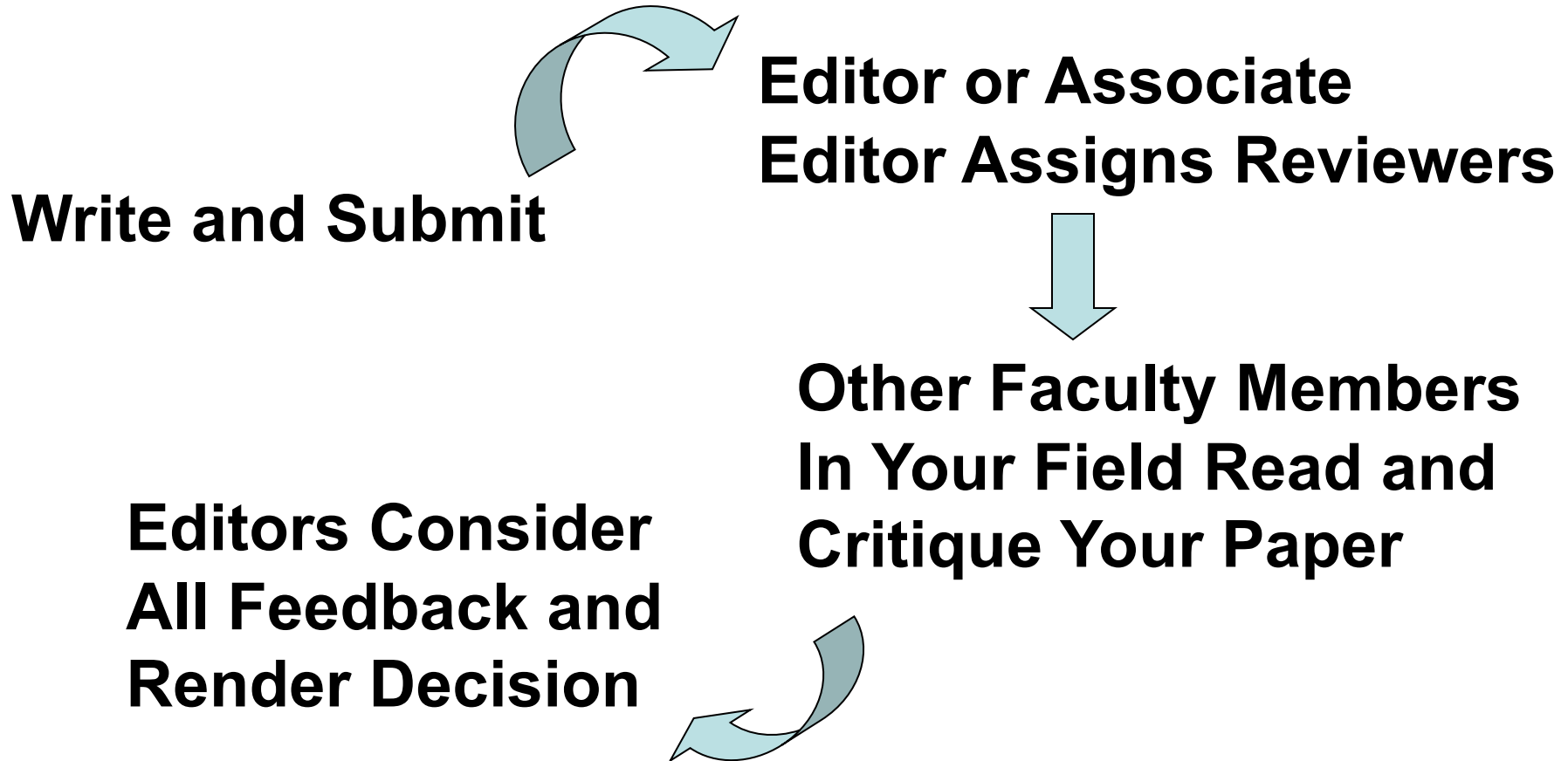
- » *Repeat message, explicitly state significance, demonstrate results*

## ➤ Roadmap

- » *Outline figures and tables*
- » *Think in narrative, link findings*
- » *Contextualize, state contribution*
- » *Write for clarity (flow, editing, specificity)*

From "Career Advice for Life Scientists, ASCB, 2004

# Submitting a Paper



# Responding to Rejection

- Understanding the decision
  - » *Priority, suitability, technical flaws*
- Learning from the critique
- Responding

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# How are publications considered at tenure?

- Number of publications
- Impact factor of journals
- Citation of papers by other researchers
- Publicity of your work affects the recommendation letters

# When should I publish my work?

- When you have a complete 'story'
- Want some solid publications early in your career
- Shoot for higher impact publications after you have established a base of respectable publications
- Consider likelihood of being 'scooped' in your area of research

# Where should I submit?

- Consider impact factor/prestige of journal as well as audience of journal
- Consider how ground breaking and how widely appealing vs. specialized your work is
- Take into account publication formats and review times



# Preparing your paper

- Get a mentor to read and provide feedback
- Consider using a professional editor to polish your work
- Remember that writing and editing are important for education of your students and post-doctoral fellows

# What Then?

- Almost always have to provide revisions and responses to reviewer comments, then re-submit
- If your paper is rejected – don't freak out!
  - » *Consider detailed feedback carefully*
  - » *Revise and/or conduct additional work as appropriate*
  - » *Re-submit to a different journal*