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# Peer Review

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Peer Review*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C16963.

A scholarly process that subjects an author's work or ideas to the scrutiny of one or more others who are experts in the field. These referees each return an evaluation of the work, including suggestions for improvement. Evaluations usually include an explicit recommendation of what to do with the manuscript or proposal. A chief rationale for peer review is that rarely is just one person, or one closely working group, able to spot every mistake or weakness in a complicated piece of work. This is not necessarily because these deficiencies represent needles in a haystack, but because in a new and creative and perhaps eclectic intellectual product, any one of these opportunities for improvement may stand out only to someone with a particular expertise and/or history of experience. Therefore showing a work to various others increases the probability that the weakness will be identified and fixed.