



Writing an article for *Sociology*

In the following we outline some of main components that editors and reviewers use to review articles submitted to *Sociology*. In doing so, we illuminate the most common reasons for article rejection and how authors can avoid these pitfalls.

Sociological relevance

Any paper published in *Sociology* must be explicit about its sociological relevance. Authors need to communicate to their readers how their manuscript is sociological, the fields of sociology it connects to and the sociological debates it engages with and develops. This must be shown throughout; it is not enough to mention 'sociology' in the introduction and conclusion; the sociological importance of the piece must be inherent throughout. Show how your paper is significant to the discipline and relevant field(s), and where possible extrapolate its relevance to wider contexts and fields.

Having a clear argument

All articles need to have a clear argument from the outset. This should show a logical progression being presented in your abstract and introduction, evidenced through your findings and discussion, before being summarised and thought about in the wider context in your conclusion.

Demonstrating originality

What is innovative about your research? Examples of originality include engaging with new and/or complex problems; developing innovative research methods, methodologies and analytical techniques; providing new empirical material; and advancing theory or the analysis of doctrine, policy or practice. Explain to the readers why your article matters.

Location in existing and relevant literature

Related to the above points, all manuscripts need to be firmly situated within relevant literature(s) and debate(s). Show how your research and the article sit within the relevant literature(s) and use the article to explain how it develops and enhances these agendas.

Extrapolation to wider context or fields

Show in your manuscript how your research and/or the core argument of the article can be extrapolated to wider contexts and fields. Does it connect to similar debates in other fields? Could it be used theoretically/methodologically/empirically in other contexts? This point is particularly important when submitting to a generalist sociology journal such as *Sociology*.



Sociology

Methodological and analytical rigour

Be clear about your methods of data collection and analysis techniques. This includes providing details about data collection, the approaches you used, any ethical and/or sensitive issues this raised and significantly how you analysed your data. Often articles omit information about data collection which are crucial to understanding the research and the core argument of the article. Any unsound data collection methods, questionable data sources or lack of analytical detail or depth may result in an article being rejected.

Structure

Please ensure that your article has a clear and logical structure. Whilst structure may alter depending on the type of article submitted (theoretical versus empirical), it is important to ensure that you provide the reader with an adequate, easy to follow structure to guide them through the article.

Satisfactory presentation

Language

Although published articles are professionally copy-edited, all articles submitted to Sociology need to be written in clear English. If you are not fluent in English, and in particular, writing in English, we suggest getting your article proofread by someone who is. Sage provides a link to [English language editing services](#) which can help with this.

Word length

Please keep to the word length within your article. The word count should include the abstract, references, notes, and tables/figures in the literal word count. Please note that over-length submissions will be returned to you for editing. This can cause severe delays to the processing of your manuscript. This word limit is strictly enforced and correspondence will NOT be entered into. Exceptionally the Editors will, by prior agreement, consider longer papers. Authors wishing to submit papers between 8,000-12,000 words should contact the Editors in advance explaining how and why they require additional space. The request should be accompanied by an abstract and a list of contents. Please note to be considered such papers must clearly indicate a sustained sociological focus throughout.

References

Please provide full and complete references using the Harvard system. Often articles are let down by poor and incomplete referencing. Please see our ['General notes to contributors'](#) for further detail.