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Help in Writing a Journal Review

By David A. Kenny

New investigators often need help in writing a journal review. Below is a one of my recent reviews that I often use. Please feel free to use it!

I found this paper to be interesting and potentially an important contribution to the literature. However, I have a few minor issues that I would urge the authors to consider in their revision. I offer these comments in a spirit of collegiality.

The theory has some potential, but needs some reworking. While there is a seed of a good idea, there is a bushel of rather pedestrian, soporific, and vacuous musings that reminds me more of flatulence than brilliance.

There are several critical papers that were not cited. Most important of these are several insightful papers written by David A. Kenny (see especially Kenny (1995; 1996a; 1996b; 1996c; 2001)). I am especially troubled that the central idea of this paper is alluded to in footnote 3 of Appendix C of the classic book by Kenny (2001) that is, sadly, now out of print. The other key idea in this paper was extensively discussed by the aforementioned Kenny in a 1994

meeting of the Alaska Association of Behavioral Scientists and Bartenders.

There were several problems in the data analysis and design. While it is useful to know that there is minimal skewness and kurtosis in the outcome measures, we really need to know about the fifth moment of the mean. The author is urged to consult work published in, I believe, the *Archives of Trivial Statistical Issues*, sometime in the 1960s. I think this paper was written by David A. Kenny. I also noted that there are 58 males and 57 females in the study. The author needs to justify this imbalance.

I found the paper to be very sloppy. There is numerous misspellings and grammatical errors. It's a tragedy that the English language is so butchered by someone whose so nonliterate. I always carefully read my papers and reviews before sending them to an editor. Finally, there were several serious editorial problems that preclude publication. First, the right margin on page 12 is .13 centimeters too wide. Second, there is an extra space somewhere on page 15. Third, the abstract contains 153 words, 3 more than allowed.

I hope that the authors see these comments as friendly and helpful. However, I would advise the authors not to quit their night jobs.