Referees, who are generally unpaid volunteers, play an essential role in the scientific enterprise. It is part of every scientist’s obligation to the community to serve as a referee if requested, to the extent that his or her expertise allows.

Today we’ll look at the various duties and responsibilities of referees and how to write referee reports.

The terms “referee” and “reviewer” are used interchangeably in US English to mean an expert who provides an objective opinion about the scientific and technical merit of a paper, nomination, or application.