

Teachers College Record: The Voice of Scholarship in Education

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Submission guidelines



Submit manuscript

Please read the guidelines in full before submitting your manuscript. Manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

Submit Manuscript 

Manuscript Submission Guidelines for Authors

Message from the Executive Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Teachers College Record (TCR) is a general education journal begun in 1900 that publishes scholarship on a wide range of topics related to education, policy, teaching, learning, curriculum, history, and philosophy. *TCR* publishes manuscripts that report empirical and conceptual research and that utilize multiple and diverse theoretical and methodological approaches. Because it is a general education journal, manuscripts need to be of interest to and accessible to a broad audience. We hope that the following guidelines for authors are helpful. The *TCR* staff and I invite you to read the journal, cite it in your scholarship, and submit a manuscript for review. We also invite you to connect with current and archived *TCR* articles by signing up for our [newsletter](#) and [Twitter \(X\)](#).

Sincerely,

Nancy Lesko

review

Teachers College Record (TCR) publishes a variety of scholarly materials in all areas of the fields of education and educational research. The editors may invite contributions from particular authors and about particular topics, but most material appearing in the journal is submitted for anonymous peer review by scholars from around the world. All topics related to the field of education broadly conceived are welcomed. It is the policy of *TCR* only to review materials that are not being considered simultaneously elsewhere. The acceptance rate is 6%.

Types of Manuscripts

Feature Articles

Both empirical and theoretical papers are considered, but papers that combine well-developed theoretical frameworks with careful empirical work are particularly appreciated. Feature articles may contain research, analysis, and commentary. The editor invites submissions utilizing all methods of inquiry, and all topics related to the field of education, broadly conceived, are welcome. Feature articles are considered for both online and print publication.

Research Notes

Research notes focus on key aspects of current studies for timely online publication. A research note describes some aspect of a method used in a study that might benefit other research and so should be more widely known. Other types of research notes highlight key results of major studies of interest to a large audience or offer empirical analyses of timely topics in education. Research notes are considered for both online and print publication.

Commentaries

Dialogue, discourse, and debate are essential to a vibrant and engaged educational community in an interconnected, global society. We welcome commentaries from scholars, practitioners, policy makers, community-based organization members, K–12 teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders who share in our commitment to education for the public good. Commentaries are original essays that address topics, issues, or events that are relevant to the field of education. We encourage diverse perspectives and questions that sustain deliberation and that engage multiple audiences and stakeholders to address educational and societal inequities and other current issues. Commentaries are intended to be generative and lead to conversations across multiple communities in order to have a broad impact in the field and beyond. Commentaries are considered for both online and print publication

Book Reviews



Book reviews are published exclusively online every week. All reviews are invited by the editors. We do not accept unsolicited reviews, but interested scholars may suggest books for review and volunteer to review books in their areas of expertise by emailing tcrcbooks@tc.columbia.edu.

Manuscript Length Guidelines

- Feature articles are typically full-length papers, no longer than about 42 pages (approximately 10,500 words), including all components (abstract, references, tables, and figures), and are to be submitted in one file.
- Research notes run 2,000 to 3,000 words in length, including all components (references, tables, and figures), and are to be submitted in one file.
- Commentaries typically run between 1,000 and 1,500 words and are to be submitted in one file.

Special Issues

For more information, please refer to our [Developing a Special Issue of TCR page](#).

Review Process

All submissions are reviewed to ensure they meet the *TCR* guidelines. Feature articles, research notes, and commentaries are reviewed internally by the editorial team. The internal review usually takes four to eight weeks. Once the internal review is completed, the executive editor will decide whether to send it out for external review.

We do not provide feedback or comments on manuscripts rejected after the internal review. All manuscripts sent for external review will be assigned to an associate editor, who will manage the manuscript. The associate editor will be in regular contact with authors throughout the review process.

Submission of Manuscripts

To facilitate the review of manuscripts, *TCR* requires that authors follow all of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition** guidelines for preparation of a manuscript. However, for historical manuscripts, following the *Chicago Manual of Style* is acceptable. Authors should attend to the correct form of headings, in-text citations, and references. Manuscripts should be double-spaced, in 11-pt or 12-pt font, and closely copyedited. All tables and figures should be labeled and their source(s) identified. To ensure anonymous reviews, authors must omit all potentially identifying information, including all information about their own publications. If authors reference their own publications, they should be cited only as (Author, date) in text and in the reference list. All components of the manuscript must be submitted in one Word document file.

*[The Purdue Owl](#) is an excellent reference for APA 7th edition guidance and examples.

Abstracts. Authors can provide a structured or narrative abstract. A structured abstract consists of three to five sentences in each of these four sections, and headings are included:

Background/Context

Purpose/Objective/Research Question/Focus of Study

Research Design

Conclusions/Recommendations

A narrative abstract includes the same information in paragraph form.

Positionality statements have become common and expected across many scholarly communities. *TCR* does not require authors to include a positionality statement, but if authors include one, the statement should be more than demographic information or abstract statements. *TCR* understands positionality statements as part of scholars' efforts to help readers understand the authors' interpretive stances and how the authors' own theoretical, methodological, and analytical decisions move and shape the design of the research questions, methods, data interpretation, and conclusions. Positionality statements are works in progress, of course, and we recommend that authors review the four approaches to writing positionality statements provided by Boveda and Annamma (2023).

Boveda, M., & Annamma, S. A. (2023). Beyond making a statement: An intersectional framing of the power and possibilities of positioning. *Educational Researcher*, 52(5), 306–314. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X231167149>

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Authors must reveal any AI-generated content in their submission, including text, images, or translations upon article submission. If generative AI is used in the process of creating your manuscript, please (1) include a brief acknowledgment in your paper that outlines the AI

tools used and how/why they were used, and (2) provide a more detailed disclosure using the template in Sage's [AI guidelines](#) (template provided at the end) and submit it with your manuscript. Please note that AI tools such as ChatGPT should not be listed as an author.

For more AI-related guidance, please refer to Sage's [artificial intelligence policy](#) and guide to [using AI in peer review and publishing](#).

Review of Manuscripts

1. Each submitted manuscript receives an internal review, after which the manuscript is accepted for further review or rejected. This initial decision typically occurs four to six weeks after submission. Feedback is not provided for manuscripts that are rejected during this first level of review, per *TCR* policy.
2. The first round of external reviews often takes several months. Once the first review has been completed, authors will receive a letter from an associate editor with a decision, along with copies of reviewers' comments. Decisions at this stage are *revise and resubmit* (major or minor revisions), or *reject*.
3. Authors who are invited to revise and resubmit are asked to do so within four weeks, but authors can arrange for additional time by communicating with the associate editor and/or the managing editor.
4. Authors who revise and resubmit are asked to provide an overview of their revisions in relation to the reviewers' comments. Authors need to make this statement of revisions anonymous as well.
5. Manuscripts typically go through three to four revisions, so we ask authors to understand that these multiple levels of review take time. The time from first submission to acceptance for publication in *TCR* averages eight to 14 months.

Authors should familiarize themselves with [Sage's Accessibility Guidelines](#) to ensure their manuscripts meet recognized accessibility standards.

Submission

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