

# How to Improve the Chances to Get a Paper Accepted

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# Where I'm Coming From

- 227 refereed journal, conference and workshop papers published
- 60% acceptance rate (very much an estimation!)
- 378 submissions
- 1,135 reviews! Phew!

# Weekly reading group



# Target the right journal, conference, or workshop ... and write to that audience



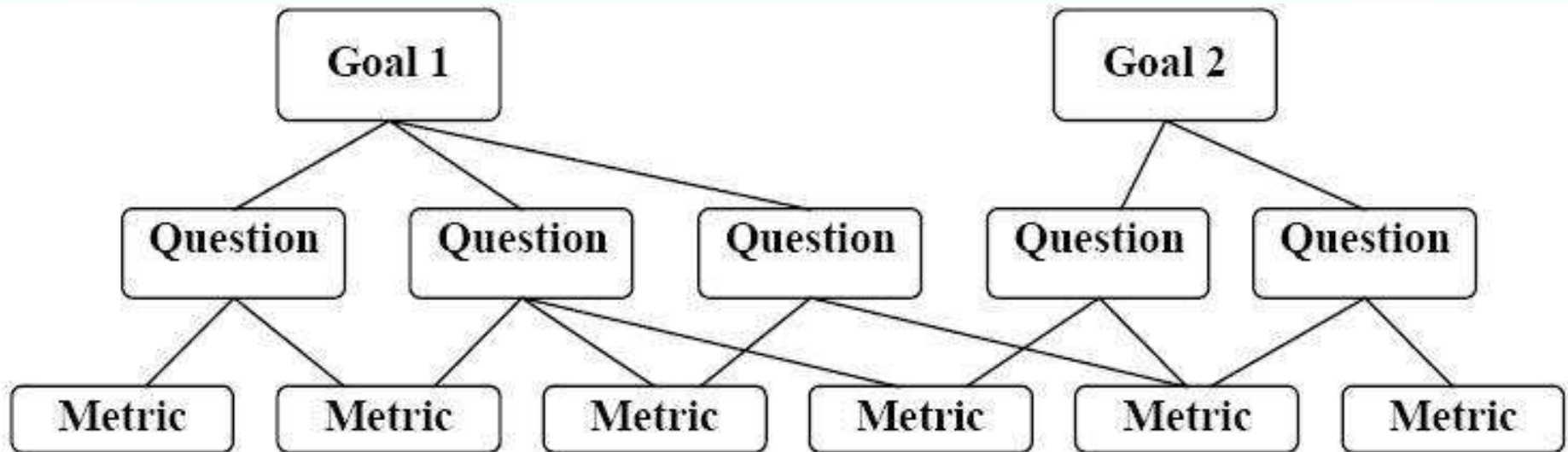
# Focus ... who are you serving?

- The goal of this research is to aid [stakeholder] to [what is the problem] by [your research approach]
- Example: The goal of this research is to aid software developers to prioritize their security vulnerability detection efforts by the development of an attack surface approximation using metrics developed from stack traces from crash dumps.

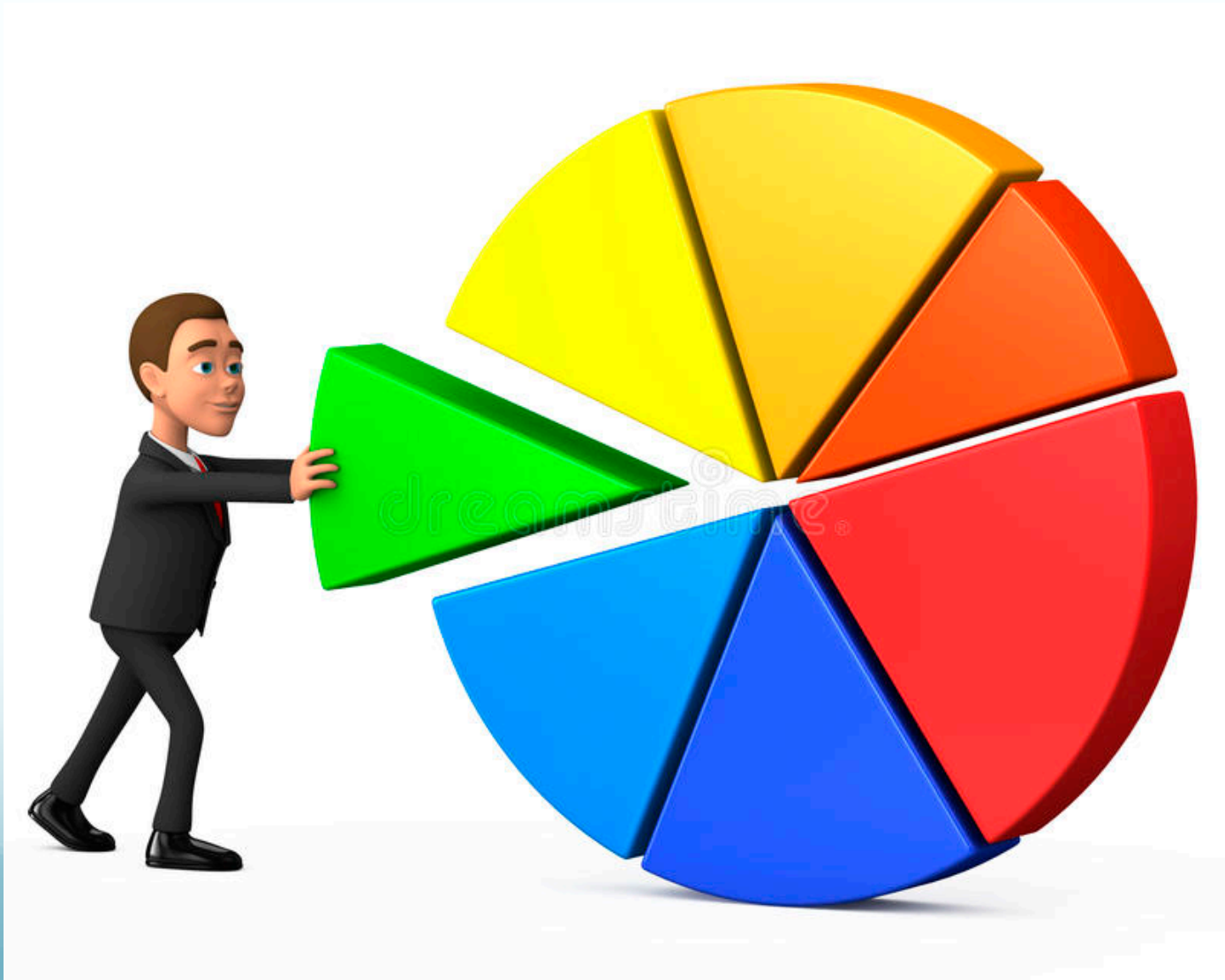
# Start with a compelling motivation



# Goal - Question - Metric

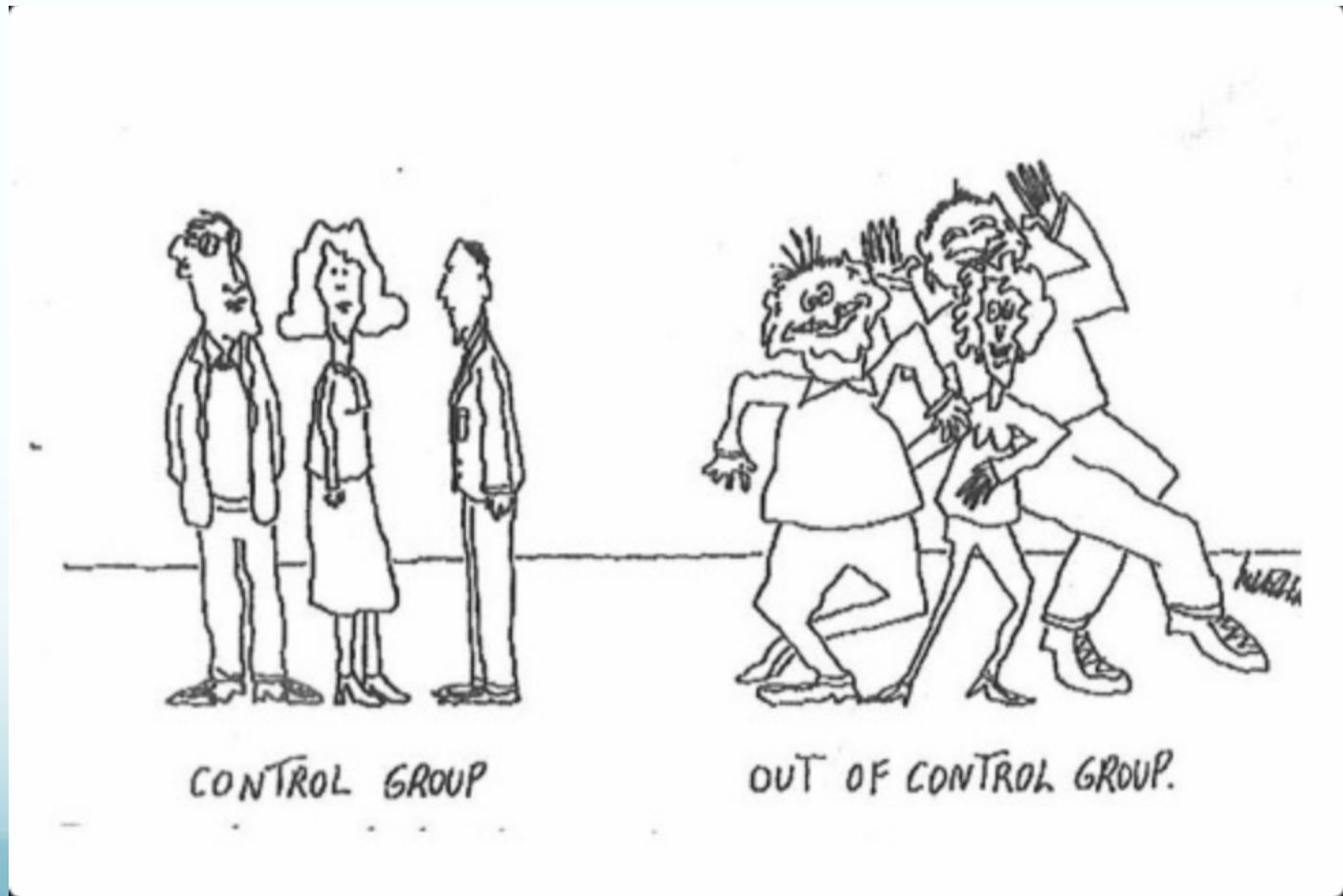


# List your contributions in the introduction

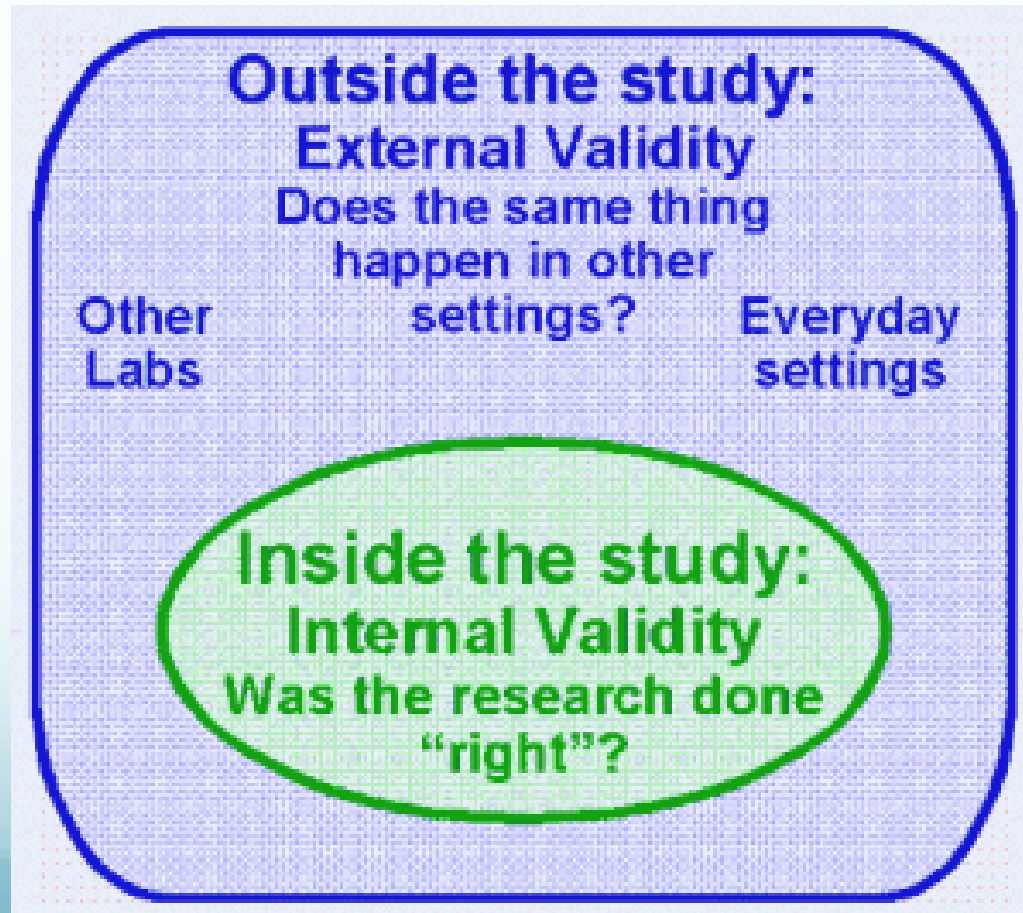




# Be impeccable with your research plan ... solicit feedback



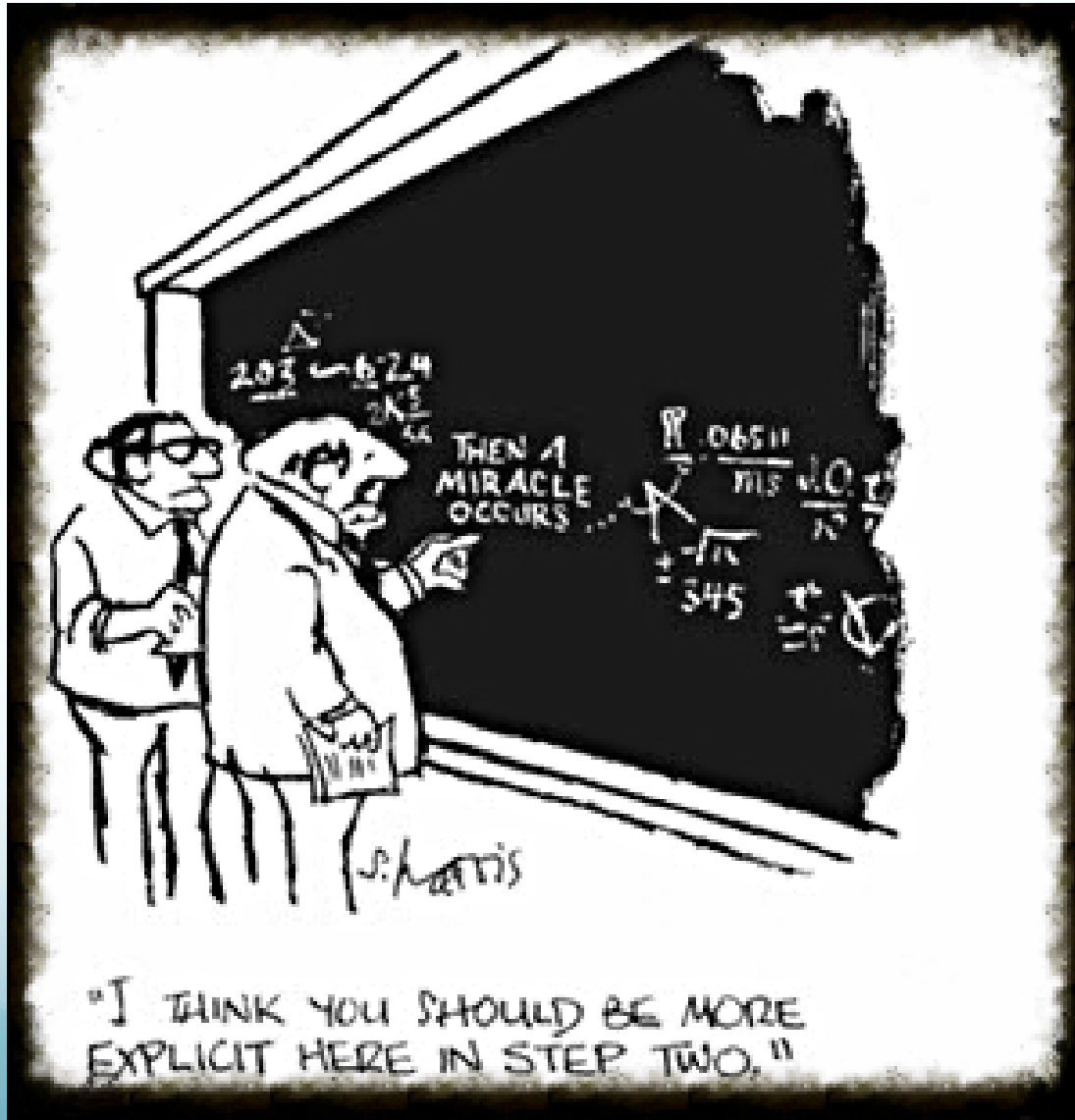
# Be modest and up front: Limitations and threats to validity



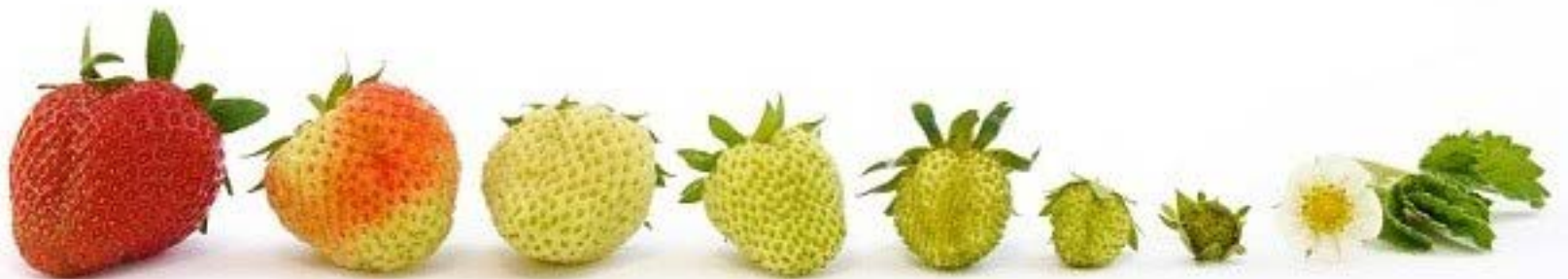
# Share data and tools (if possible)



# Enable replication



# Pace yourself ... let the work ripen

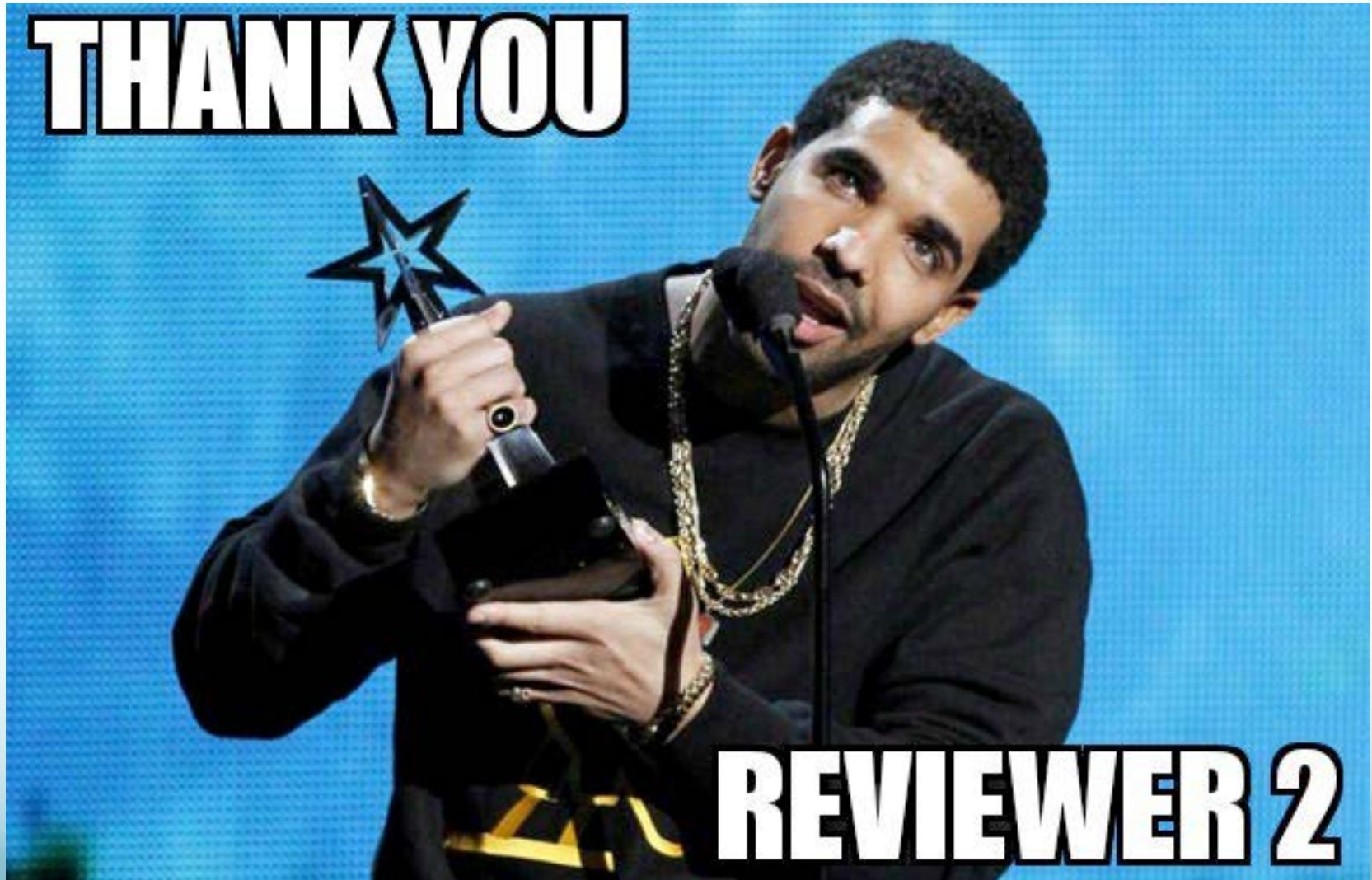


# Require drafts from your students EARLY!!



... or don't allow them to put your name on the paper.

# Good old Reviewer #2



# On Reviewer #2: Hanlon's Razor



... and stupidity is far more common than malice.



# Constantly keep abreast of latest research/literature



# Review other's papers

**Help  
people and  
they will  
help you  
back:D**

# Read your paper aloud

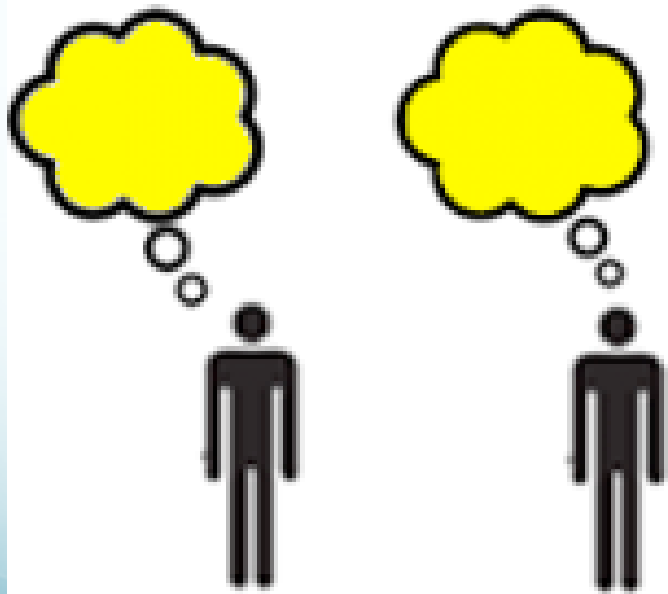


# Say it in “plain English”

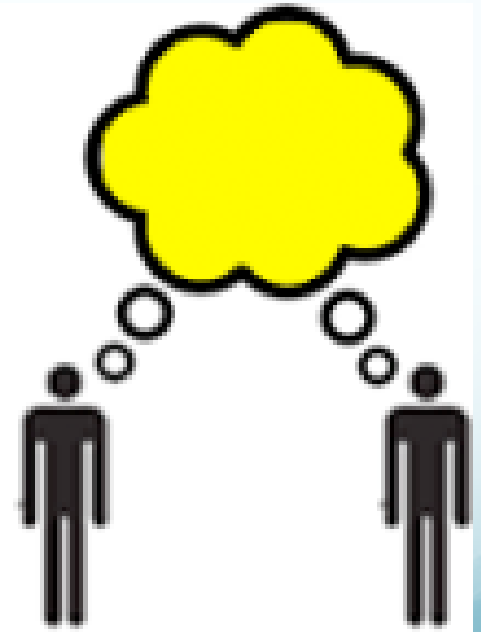
“If you can't explain something simply, you don't understand it well.”

\*Albert Einstein

Practice cooperation, not competition with colleagues in the same field ... and your new faculty colleagues



**Competition  
geometry**

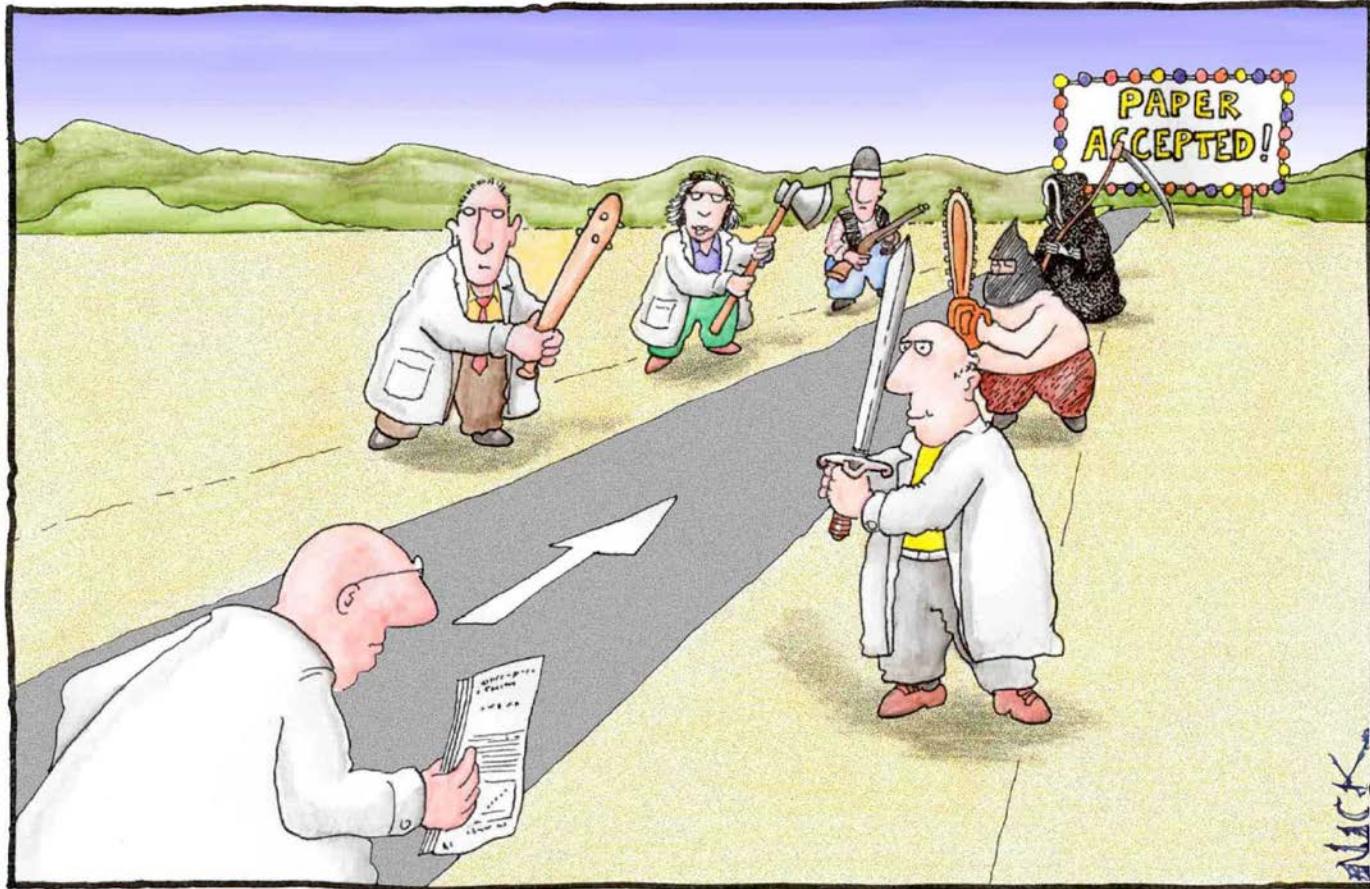


**Cooperation  
geometry**

# The inevitable rejection



# Consider the possible (repeat) reviewers



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

# Many thanks to my former and current PhD students

- Mark Sherriff
- Andy Meneely
- Dright Ho
- Jee Hyun Hwang
- Jiang Zheng
- Rahul Pandita
- Pat Morrison
- Maria Riaz
- Sarah Heckman
- Xusheng Xiao



# Final Thought

Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
1803-1882, Essayist, Lecturer, and Poet

# Images

- <http://kiwaniscoolstuff.com/cc4-goals/>
- <http://www.brainleadersandlearners.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/celebrate.gif>
- [http://quotepixel.com/picture/inspirational/terry\\_cole\\_whittaker/what\\_you\\_think\\_of\\_me\\_is\\_none\\_of\\_my\\_business](http://quotepixel.com/picture/inspirational/terry_cole_whittaker/what_you_think_of_me_is_none_of_my_business)
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# Images - 2

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