The primary purpose of this review is to provide the editors with the information needed to reach a decision. The review should also instruct the authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable. As far as possible, a negative review should explain to the authors the weaknesses of their manuscript, so that rejected authors can understand the basis for the decision and see in broad terms what needs to be done to improve the manuscript for publication elsewhere. This is secondary to the other functions, however, and you should not feel obliged to provide detailed, constructive advice to authors of papers that do not meet the criteria for SJoP. If you believe that a manuscript would not be suitable for publication, your report to the author should be as brief as is consistent with enabling the author to understand the reason for the decision.

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