

General Assessment Framework (GAF) for Professional Writing

The assessment framework provided below is for use in evaluating the logical and linguistic structure of magazine articles, conference papers, journal papers, thesis chapters and other forms of professional writing.

Consideration

Assessment (1 to 10)

Brevity and accuracy of the title.

Division of the material into logically consistent sections of reasonable size.

Successful anchoring of the text by means of a concise and well written introduction.

Successful anchoring of the text by means of a concise and well written conclusion.

Readable and engaging general narrative.

Logical structure of the individual sentences and paragraphs.

Linguistic structure of the individual sentences and paragraphs.

Third person formal writing style.

Use of mathematical notation, abbreviations and specialist terms.

Format of tables and figures.

Selection and use of references.

Format of the bibliography.

The notation system below is used to provide specific indications directly on the draft manuscript.

A	anecdotal	The material is not defensible using first principles or references.
AL	axis label	Missing or non-optimal axis label.
AR	axis range	Non-optimal axis range.
AU	axis units	Missing or non-optimal axis units.
C	category error	An object, concept or situation is mislabeled, or mistaken for another different one.
CA	circular argument	The material depends for its definition on another section of material which, in turn, depends on this section for its definition.
CE	counter example	One or more examples can be formulated which are opposite to the logic or concept which is being proposed.
CN	contradiction	The material contains internally contradictory elements, or as a whole it contradicts a concept established previously in the text.
CO	colloquial	The word, expression or phrase is either colloquial or inappropriate.
D	definition	The object, concept or situation is being discussed without having first been introduced and defined.
E	example	The example chosen for the text, table or figure does not convey the desired concept.
F	format	The text, table, figure or bibliographic reference does not follow the format adopted elsewhere.
FALSE	false statement	The material contains a factual error or the structure of the statement leads to a false conclusion.
LA	language	The material contains errors in spelling or grammar.
LO	long	The sentence is excessively long. It should be broken down into a set of shorter, simpler and more concise sentences.
M	meaning	The object, concept or situation is not immediately evident. The material may be incomplete or may not separate adequately between multiple possible interpretations.
MU	minimal utility	The material adds little or no new information, thus it should be eliminated.
N	name	Multiple names are being used for the same object, concept or situation. A single, accurate, name should be used everywhere.
NAR	narrative	The material in question deviates from the general structure of the established narrative.
OS	order in sentence	The order of presentation of the items in the sentence is inconsistent with respect to the most obvious logical criteria, or with respect to a previous, or a successive, list of similar items.
OT	order in text	The material is not optimally located. It should be moved to a previous or later point in the text.
PB	paragraph break	The material is not logically joined, therefore it should be subdivided by breaking the paragraph at the point indicated.
PJ	paragraph join	The material is logically joined, thus the adjoining paragraphs should be combined into a single paragraph.
PROB	probability	The probability of the event or events is low, thus not logically defensible.
R	reason	The reason for the statement or for presenting the given information is not evident.
RD	reasoning deductively	The statement contains an error of deductive reasoning.
RI	reasoning inductively	The statement contains an error of inductive reasoning.
REF	reference	The statement requires a reference to identify the source and obtain the details.
RP	repeat	The material is unnecessarily repeating a concept or statement.
S	semantics	The choice of word or words is not optimal, or is inconsistent with respect to other similar examples in the text.
SI	size	The text, label or legend is too small to permit image reduction during publishing.
SH	short	The material is too short to present the needed concepts. Further material is required.
T	taxonomy	The objects, concepts or situations which are being grouped together are not consistent with the proposed grouping criteria.
TR	truncation	The choice of significant figures for the number is incorrect, or, alternatively, is inconsistent with respect to previous examples.
U	units	Missing or incorrect scientific units associated with a number.
W	who, what, when, where, why	One or more of the 5 Ws of information gathering is missing or is unclear, thus clarification is required.