Our Society journals are critical to the visibility and viability of ASA, SSSA, and CSSA. Maintaining or improving their quality depends not only on submissions of cutting-edge research, but also on timely, competent peer reviews. At some stage in our careers, most of us will submit our research to one or more of the Societies’ top-tier, peer-reviewed journals. Those submissions will be evaluated by our peers, who provide voluntary, constructive reviews intended to improve the submission (or to suggest, nicely, that it be targeted elsewhere). The reviewer is critical to the progress of science.

However, the age-old issue of getting timely and complete reviews has become even more important as we compete with an increasing number of journals from commercial publishers. In an increasingly competitive publication world, constructive and timely reviews reduce the turn-around time of manuscripts from submission to acceptance. Rapid publication of results, especially in hot topics, will lead authors to submit future articles to the society journals, potentially enhancing the quality metrics of the journals, including the impact factor. This, in turn, benefits everyone else publishing in our journals.

Those of us who have published in our journals realize the importance of the review process, not only in getting our work validated, but also in improving our own ability to write a clear, concise manuscript. Reviewing is a mutually beneficial process, providing a great learning process for the reviewer, in addition to providing authors with constructive suggestions for improvement. Reviewing is also an excellent way to stay current in your area of science, even if just to come to the conclusion that you wouldn’t do what the author of the paper just did.

When you are asked to review, please respond quickly to the request; if you agree, please give the review a high priority.