**A SHORT EXPLANATION OF PEER REVIEW**

adapted from [“I Don’t Know What to Believe…”](http://www.senseaboutscience.org/resources.php/16/i-dont-know-what-to-believe)

When a researcher, or team of researchers, finishes a stage of work, they usually write a paper presenting their methods, findings and conclusions. They then send the paper to a scientific journal to be considered for publication. If the journal’s editor thinks it is suitable for their journal they send the paper to other scientists who research and publish in the same field asking them to evaluate and provide feedback on the paper. The paper is then returned with the anonymous comment(s) to the authors who revised the paper based on the feedback. This process is called peer review.

**What is Calibrated Peer Review (CPR)?**

Calibrated Peer Review (CPR) is a web-based tool designed to provide students with a peer review experience. Students enter their writing into the CPR system and then provide anonymous feedback to three of their peers. The feedback is structured by an instructor created rubric. Once the review process is complete, students can log into the system, review their results and incorporate suggestions into their essay revisions.

**How to I access CPR?**

You can access UBC's installation of CPR via the URL [http://cpr.elearning.ubc.ca](http://cpr.elearning.ubc.ca/)  You may wish to bookmark this URL as you will use it many times during this course.

Because CPR is not CWL enabled, the first time you use the program you need to “Create new user profile.” To do so, click the [Create a new user profile](http://cpr.elearning.ubc.ca/CPRLocal/login/CreateNewUserProfile1.aspx) link and enter your UBC student number (**NOT**your CWL).

Once you enter your student number, you will be given a CPR Username. This will consist of a letter followed by five digits. Make sure you write down this username and the password you create!

To access CPR, simple enter your CPR Username and password at the log in screen.

**What do I do?**

There are two tutorials to help you use Calibrated Peer Review:

* [Getting Started with Calibrated Peer Review](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138293_1/xid-4138293_1%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)    (3.5 minutes)
* [Using the Calibrated Peer Review System](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138375_1/xid-4138375_1%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)    (9 minutes)

The first time you log into CPR, you will need to complete a quiz that is a form of pre-test to help you learn about CPR. It is based on a short tutorial. There is no grade associated with the quiz, but you must earn a passing grade to access your CPR assignments. Once you pass the quiz you will no longer be able to access the tutorial via the CPR system. If you wish to review the tutorial information, a printable version of the tutorial is available [CPR\_Tutorial.pdf](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138290_1/xid-4138290_1) 

. For the part of the first assignment (involving the quiz) where it also says to 'preview calibration essays', these can be found lower down on this page (see Step 2) where you can link to the calibration essays - there are three.

After you pass the quiz, you will see a list of the classes you are taking that are using CPR. Click on the link for SCIE113 and you will see a list of any open assignments. You will not see assignments until the day your in-class writing is returned. Click the assignment link to begin.

There are 5 main tasks  or stages to a CPR assignment. Each task has a set start and end time. You will not be able to access the task before the start time or after the end time. Please be aware of the due dates for each aspect of the CPR assignments, noted in multiple places here on Connect (in the syllabus and for each class within each of the Units).

1. **Text Entry**
**Please note: You MUST complete the text entry stage to proceed to the next step of the assignment. If you do not enter text, you will not be able to move to the next stage!**In this stage you will enter the text you wrote in class. Because CPR is web-based, the interface runs on HTML so you will need to use HTML code to format your text. Please review this one page [formatting guide](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138288_1/xid-4138288_1)   for more information. There is a "Formatting Help" button in the text entry area that will give you more information. The one thing you **MUST** do is enter the code <p> or <P> anywhere you want a paragraph break.
2. **Calibration**
Before you review the work of your peers, you will be asked to review three sample essays. These essays represent a high, medium and low quality essay. They will be presented in random order. The purpose of the calibration essays is to ensure you understand how to mark essays using the rubric and how to assign the essay score. It is very likely you will need to review the calibration essays more than once, especially the first time you complete a CPR writing assignment. Please be sure to budget time for this! You may find it helpful to have the [calibration essays](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138286_1/xid-4138286_1)   and [rubric](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-5381805_1/xid-5381805_1)   in advance of the assignment. The calibration essays for writing assignment #2 are available [here](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138287_1/xid-4138287_1)  . The calibrations for the final round of CPR are available [here](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138228_1/xid-4138228_1)  .
3. **Peer Reviews**
In this stage you will use the rubric to evaluate the work of three of your peers. In addition to marking items on the rubric, you are expected to answer questions (stated on the rubric) to help provide constructive and targeted feedback.
4. **Self Review**
The final review step is to review your own work. Many students find this helps them better understand how their writing compares to that of their peers.
5. **View Results**
You can view your results online anytime after the end of the assignment. You will be able to see how your peers evaluated your work what suggestions they have to help you improve your final draft. Reviewing the feedback your peers have provided to you is an excellent way to refine your understanding and assessment of your mastery of the subject.You may find [this guide](https://connect.ubc.ca/bbcswebdav/pid-1258057-dt-content-rid-4138291_1/xid-4138291_1)   helpful in understanding your CPR results.

**What if I need more help?**

If you have specific questions about CPR or about the assignment, please contact your instructor or TA.