

JGE Conflict of Interest Guidelines

Updated 2018

The editors of the *Journal of Geoscience Education* seek to make the peer review process as fair and transparent as possible. Within our single-blind review process, one important component of making the process fair is avoiding conflicts of interest between the associate editors (AEs) and reviewers on the one hand (who remain anonymous), and the authors of the manuscript on the other, who are known to the reviewers and AEs.

Before accepting an invitation to serve as an Associate Editor or reviewer for a manuscript, you should consider if you have a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest in peer review may result from a relationship that you now have, or have had in the past, with an author or authors. The most common relationships that are considered conflicts of interest are:

- Co-authoring a journal article with one or more of the authors in the recent past (the last three years), particularly the lead author;
- Being colleagues within the same section/department or similar organizational unit currently or within the recent past (the last three years);
- Supervising/having supervised the doctoral work of the author(s) or being supervised/having been supervised by the author(s);
- Having a personal relationship (e.g. family, close friend) with the author(s);
- Having a direct or indirect financial interest in the paper being reviewed;
- Receiving professional or personal benefit resulting from the review (for example, if the paper is promoting the use of curricular materials you developed).

It is **not** considered a Conflict of Interest if the AE or potential reviewer has worked together with the author(s) in a collaborative project or teaching (e.g. an REU project, co-authored website, or co-taught field course) or if they have co-organized an event (e.g. served as co-chairs of a session at GSA or AGU).

While you may feel you can provide a fair, objective review even if you fall into one of the listed relationships, there is still an appearance of a conflict of interest that negatively impacts the integrity of the peer review process. If you have a conflict of interest, you must decline to serve as AE or reviewer of the manuscript. If you suspect you have a conflict of interest but aren't sure, contact the AE or Editor who sent you the invitation.