

Writing a rebuttal letter (journal submission)

Source: <https://bit.ly/2KhA9Vk>

An annotated example
can be downloaded here:
<https://bit.ly/3nxyuJG>

Useful phrases to include in a rebuttal letter to help explain how you revised your manuscript.

Preface to explanations

- Thank you for providing these insights.
- Thank you for your suggestion.
- That is an interesting query.
- This is an interesting perspective.
- We agree with you.
- We agree with your assessment.
- You have raised an important question.
- You have asked an interesting question.

Expressing agreement with editor/reviewer comments

- We agree with you and have incorporated this suggestion throughout our paper.
- We have reflected this comment by... (p. #, lines #-#).
- We have incorporated your comments by... (p. #, lines #-#).
- We agree that...
- We have now [X] (p. #, lines #-#) and [Y] (p. #, lines #-#). We think these changes now better [Z]. We hope that you agree.

Expressing disagreement with editor/reviewer suggestion

- You have raised an important point; however, we believe that [X] would be outside the scope of our paper because...
- This is a valid assessment of...; however, we believe that [X] would be more appropriate because...
- We agree that...; however, due to [X], we believe that...
- In our revisions, we have attempted to [X] (p. #, lines #-#); however, we have retained some of our arguments because...
- We acknowledge that [X] has certain limitations; however,...

Expressing clarification

- We have clarified that... means... (p. #, lines #-#) throughout the paper.
- We have redrafted the [X] section (p. #, lines #-#) to establish a clearer focus.
- We have revised the text (p. #, lines #-#) to reflect...
- We removed [X] (from p. #, lines #-#) and hope that the deletion clarifies the points we attempted to make.
- We have replaced the term [X] throughout the paper with [Y] to use more precise terms.
- We have rewritten [X] (p. #, lines #-#) to be more in line with your comments. We hope that the edited section clarifies...
- We have elaborated on [X] (p. #, lines #-#) and expanded our consideration of [Y]. We hope these revisions provide a more [balanced][thorough] discussion.

Additional information or explanation

- We have included a new Figure # (p. #) to further illustrate...
- We have added a new Table # (p. #), which outlines...
- We have supplemented the [X] section with explanations of [Y] (p. #, lines #-#).
- There are multiple reasons/approaches to..., including [our scenario]. We have included an acknowledgment regarding this point in the [X] section (p. #, lines #-#).
- We have not done... However, we believe that [doing X] (p. #, lines #-#) would address this issue because...
- We have not done...; however, our sense is that...

Repeated responses

(when one of your responses answers multiple comments)

- Please see point # above. [e.g., "Please see point 2(a) above."]