

Collaboration

How to establish author order

When multiple authors collaborate to write a journal article, the task of determining authorship order inevitably arises. Collaborating authors are usually listed in order of the relative size of each author's contribution to the article.



GAUGING THE **SIZE OR IMPORTANCE** OF EACH AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION CAN OFTEN BE A CHALLENGE.



USE A MATHEMATICAL APPROACH

1. Decide which items will appear in the manuscript, including text, ideas, figures, tables, etc. 
2. Determine the percentage of each item that was created by each author.
3. Rank the items based on their importance to the overall manuscript, and assign a weight to each item accordingly. 
4. Calculate each author's total contribution to the article based on his or her contributions to each item and how important those items are to the manuscript, and order the authors according to overall contribution.

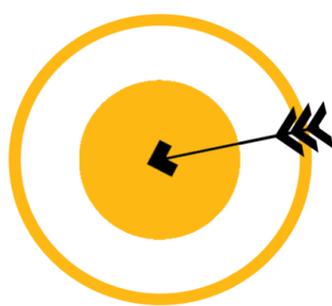


THIS PROCESS

MUST BE COLLABORATIVE

INVOLVE ALL CO-AUTHORS!

Negotiate author order at the beginning of the project to best avoid sticky situations.



Create a written authorship agreement that states order of authors, ownership of data gathered as part of the project, and expectations for the project.



DISPUTES

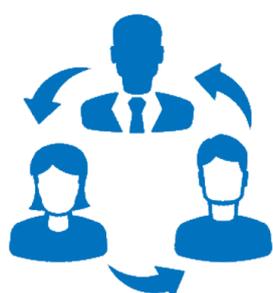
MAY ARISE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If a dispute about author order does arise, collaborators can first try to resolve it themselves, or seek an impartial higher authority:

1. Chair of the department
2. Someone on the editorial board of the journal to which the article is to be submitted
3. A third party who is respected by all authors

**MAKE
DECISIONS
EARLY**



**BE OPEN TO
CHANGES
ALONG THE WAY**

Co-authorship can bring unexpected benefits to writing projects. "There are times when academic work can feel solitary, or even lonely," said Andrew Pomerantz. "Co-authorship is a wonderful way to battle these feelings, and to form meaningful, enjoyable partnerships."