#### Description

The pseudo generic "he," that is, the usage of "man" to denote all of humanity assumes that the default and normal human being is male. While there are more pressing issues in the inclusive space and endeavor of achieving equality and the fact that the usage of "he" to refer to nonspecific persons does not point to a great conspiracy against women, it still indicates a bias coded into our linguistic inheritance.

Language plays a crucial role in molding behavior and perceptions. Moreover, the language used by educators and in academic documents is extremely influential and provides a model for students and society as a whole. Word choices often unconsciously reflect preconceived and wrongful notions about gender roles, and hence we should make a conscious effort to not use language that stereotypes, constrains, or excludes others.



### **Diversity Matters**

Evaluating DEI practices and mental health awareness in scholarly communication and publishing



Take the Survey

Let's look at some of the ways we can use gender-inclusive language while writing. However, it is to be noted that gender inclusion need not be unwarranted—it is important to make sure that gender inclusive language does not give rise to disparity between the subject and the pronoun in a document.

# Avoid exclusionary forms such as:

mankind man's achievements the best man for the job

## Instead, use inclusionary forms such as:

humanity, human beings, people human achievements the best person for the job

# Use they/their as a singular pronoun For instance:

Because experienced hikers know that weather conditions can change rapidly, they often dress in layers. Here's a checklist for gender-related revisions:

- 1. If someone's gender has been mentioned, was it necessary to do so?
- 2. Does the paper have any occupational (or other) stereotypes?
- 3. Are there same kinds of information and descriptions when writing about people of different genders?

#### Category

- 1. Diversity and Inclusion
- 2. Language & Grammar
- 3. Reporting Research

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