

**Publication credit (authorship; Principle 6.23, a-c).** Authorship is reserved for persons who receive primary credit and hold primary responsibility for a published work.

Authorship encompasses, therefore, not only those who do the actual writing but also those who have made substantial scientific contributions to a study. Substantial professional contributions may include formulating the problem or hypothesis, structuring the experimental design, organizing and conducting the statistical analysis, interpreting the results, or writing a major portion of the paper. Those who so contribute are listed in the byline. Lesser contributions, which do not constitute authorship, may be acknowledged in a note (see section 3.89). These contributions may include such supportive functions as designing or building the apparatus, suggesting or advising about the statistical analysis, collecting or entering the data, modifying or structuring a computer program, and recruiting participants or obtaining animals. Conducting routine observations or diagnoses for use in studies do not constitute authorship. Combinations of these (and other) tasks, however, may justify authorship. As early as practicable in a research project, the collaborators should decide on which tasks are necessary for the project's completion, how the work will be divided, which tasks or combination of tasks merits authorship credit, and on what level credit should be given (first author, second author, etc.; Fine & Kurdek, 1993). This is especially appropriate if one of the collaborators is new to the publishing process.

Collaborators may need to reassess authorship credit and order if major changes are necessary in the course of the project (and its publication). This is especially true in faculty—student collaborations, when students may need intensive supervision or additional analyses are required beyond the scope of a students' thesis or dissertation (Fine & Kurdek, 1993).

The corresponding author (the author who serves as the main contact) should always obtain a person's consent before including that person's name in a byline or in a note. Each author listed in the byline of an article should review the entire manuscript before it is submitted.

Authors are responsible for determining authorship and for specifying the order in which two or more authors' names appear in the byline. The general rule is that the name of the principal contributor should appear first, with subsequent names in order of decreasing contribution. If authors played equal roles in the research and publication of their study, they may wish to note this in the second paragraph of the author note (see section 3.89).

Authors are also responsible for the factual accuracy of their contributions. The opinions and statements published are the responsibility of the authors, and such opinions and statements do not necessarily represent the policies of APA or the views of the editors.

When a paper is accepted by an editor, each person listed in the byline must verify in writing that he or she agrees to serve as an author and accepts the responsibilities of authorship (see the section on authors' responsibilities at the beginning of chapter 5).

**6.23 *Publication Credit***

- (a) Psychologists take responsibility and credit, including authorship credit, only for work they have actually performed or to which they have contributed.
  
- (b) Principal authorship and other publication credits accurately reflect the relative scientific or professional contributions of the individuals involved, regardless of their relative status. Mere possession of an institutional position, such as Department Chair, does not justify authorship credit. Minor contributions to the research or to the writing for publications are appropriately acknowledged, such as in footnotes or in an introductory statement.
  
- (c) A student is usually listed as principal author on any multiple-authored article that is substantially based on the student's dissertation or thesis.