

Telling Your Organization's Data Story Through Peer Review: A Guide to Conducting an Independent Review of Evaluation Findings

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Why would an organization choose an independent review?

The peer review that typically occurs when a scholar submits a manuscript to a journal is a vital component in assessing research quality and relevance. However, when it comes to evaluation, journal peer review may not meet an organization's goals or timeline. Furthermore, the process is not necessarily designed to assess findings in context of the entire body of data on a particular intervention. An alternative approach—one that may better fit the internal evaluation goals and timeline of many programs and organizations—is an independent expert review of evaluation findings.

5. Communicate results

- a. How will you share results with key stakeholders?
- b. How will you engage reviewers in the broader communication process?

4. Facilitate

- a. Communicate the charge to reviewers
- b. Balance necessary guidance with independence in the review by experts
- c. How will you synthesize findings with the organization?

1. Determine readiness

- a. Does the organization have sufficient research/evaluation to review?
- b. Is the organization willing to share access to their results?
- c. Is the organization equipped to act upon the results?

ACUE case study—access the full report [here](#).

**ACUE STUDENT, FACULTY,
AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT
RESEARCH**
Independent Review Process
and Findings

April 2019

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2. Define Goals

- a. What are the driving questions that an organization needs to answer?
- b. How will the review be used to tell a story?

3. Prepare

- a. What independent experts are the best fit for the review?
- b. How will you facilitate the process? (i.e., share information in advance, convene experts, establish a timeline for summary writing)