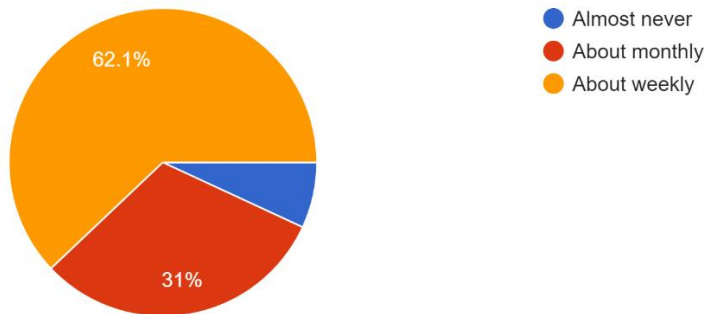


# 2022 REVIEWERS POLL RESULTS

## MWSA Website's Reviewer Section & Communication

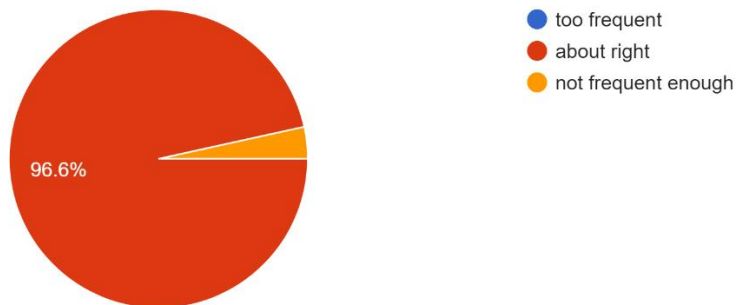
How often do you look at the reviewer section of the website when the season is open?

29 responses



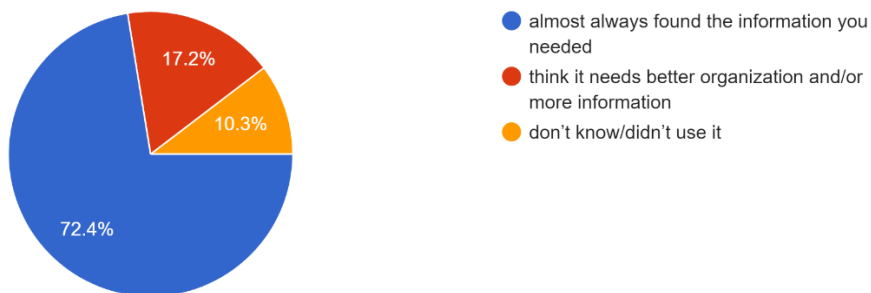
The frequency of "blast" emails from awards directors, was...

29 responses



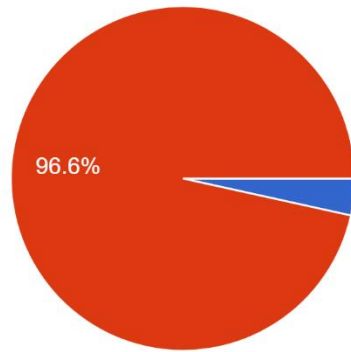
When it comes to the reviewer admin section of the website, you...

29 responses



The level of detail included in "blast" emails was...

29 responses

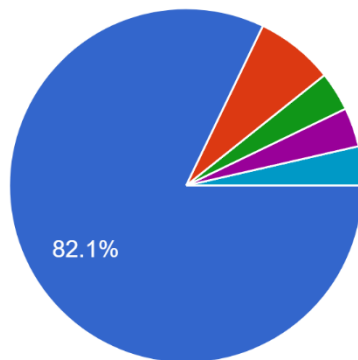


- too much
- about right
- too little

## Scoring

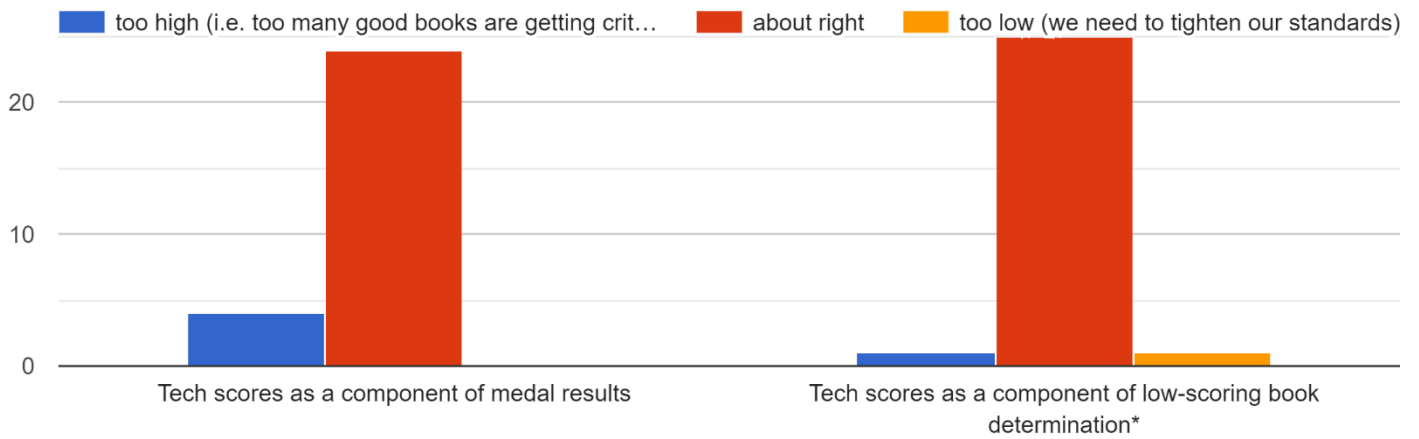
Technical Override -- Is it necessary?

28 responses



- Agree that it's necessary
- Don't think it's necessary
- No opinion
- I agree it's necessary, but think that when the book is easily redeemable technically, author's should be allowed...
- Generally agree that weighted scoring delivers a more balanced view of the...
- It would be easier to understand if the categories were weighed and the scor...

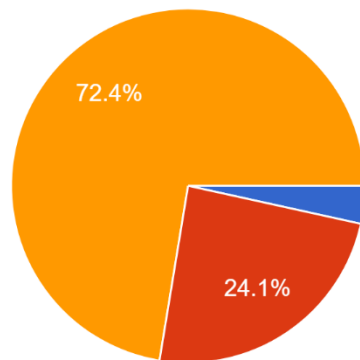
## Technical Override -- Thresholds set correctly?



## Reviews

When it comes to reviews for low-scoring books (and recognizing that all authors have the right to refuse/remove any MWSA review), MWSA should...

29 responses

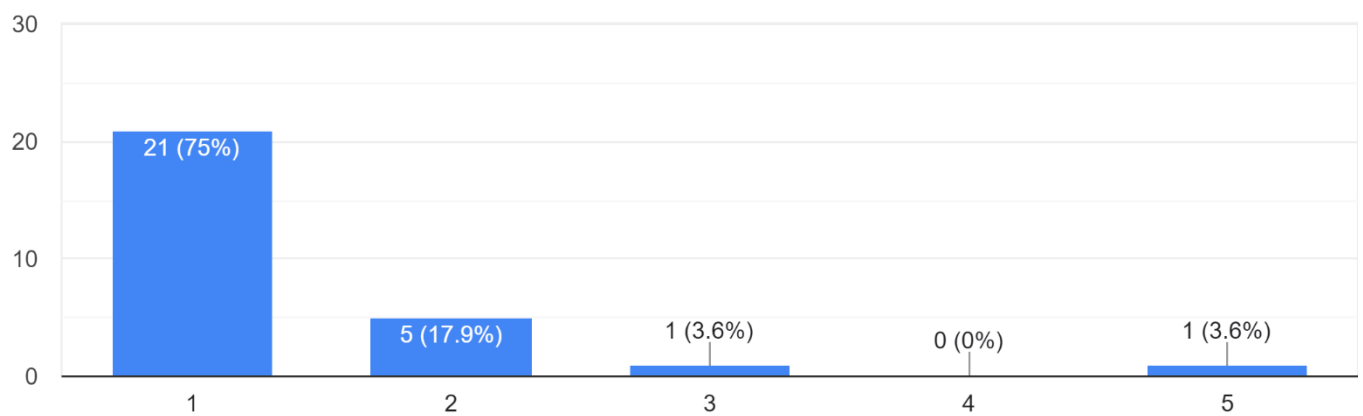


- not point out mistakes and/or problem areas--no matter how many, no matter how egregious, and no matter how damaging it might be to our credibility. Our mission is to accept and encoura...
- only point out mistakes and/or problem areas for low-scoring books
- point out mistakes and/or problem areas for nearly all books--even award winners--but only when especially noticeable and/or significantly detracting

## Reviewer Conferences

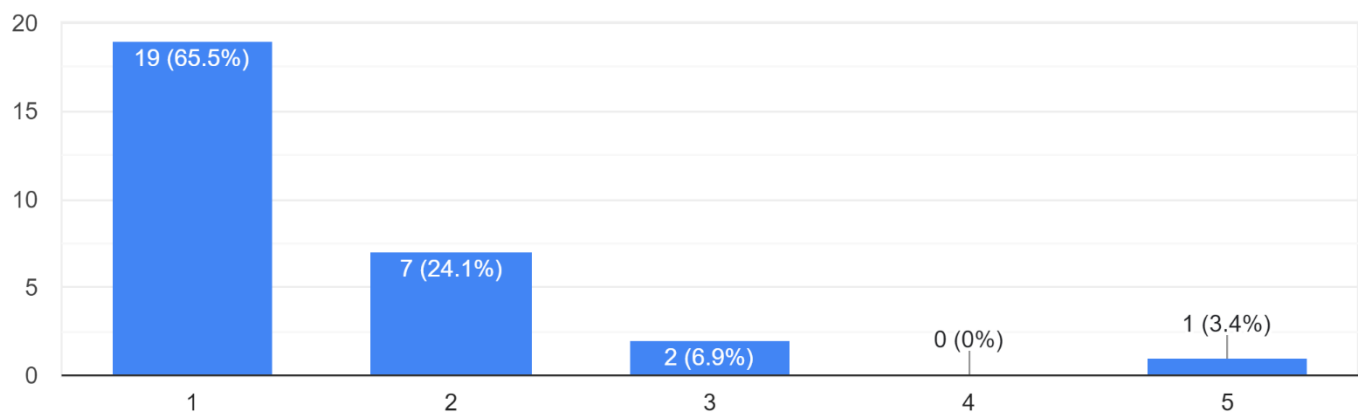
When it comes to reviewer conferences, I understand the need for this system, recognize its importance in ensuring quality evaluations, and agree current methodology (i.e., via form submission).

28 responses



Decision to convene reviewer conferences -- I believe we're doing them when appropriate (i.e., that we're recognizing when divergent scores are an indication that evaluations can be improved via reviewer conference).

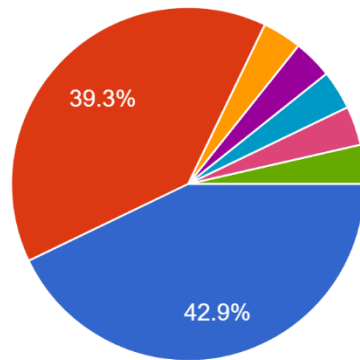
29 responses



## Training

## With respect to training on our rules and procedures

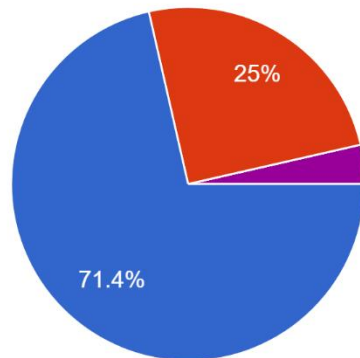
28 responses



- I found what I needed on the website or learned what I needed during training
- I mostly found what I needed on the website or learned what I needed duri...
- I did not find what I needed on the we...
- Our system is way too complex to be t...
- I mostly found what I needed on the w...
- I have things bookmarked and I now h...
- I did not check for updates this year. D...
- We should send updates in Sept/Oct/...

## Reviewer training program and slides

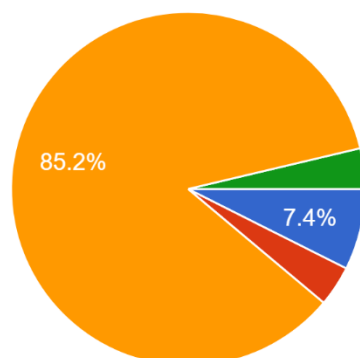
28 responses



- Seems about right
- Seems about right, but needs improvement
- Doesn't make sense to me, needs a lot of work
- I haven't looked or don't care
- Was helpful but I still feel unsure of my reviews.

## Initial Training was...

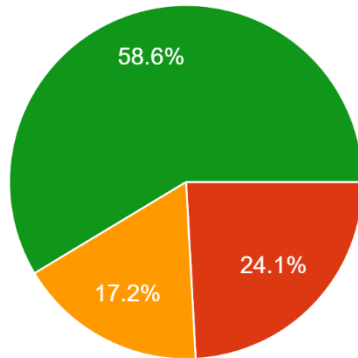
27 responses



- a blur... I don't remember or was never initially trained
- too short, not enough details provided
- about right in length and level of detail
- too long in length and or too many details--program should be simplified or training separated into two (or more sessions)

## Ongoing/Recurrent Training

29 responses



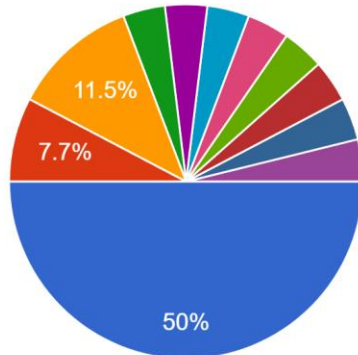
- Isn't necessary or I'd rather not be bothered
- I'll stay up-to-date by reading the reviewer admin portion of the website
- I only want the highlights or have new procedures explained via email
- Should be required by all reviewers to stay "current"

## Changes for the 2023 Season

### Matching Supply & Demand

Regarding this new tiered submission system, you

26 responses



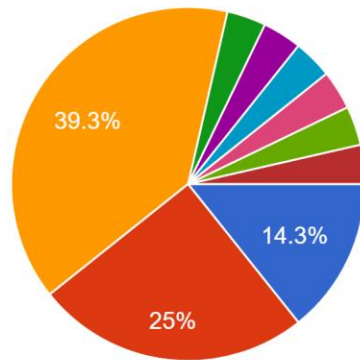
- understand and agree
- would rather we keep closing the sub...
- don't believe this new system is the co...
- have no opinion
- I recommend getting reviewer commit...
- It would be interesting to try and if suc...
- Can you consider just having it open y...
- I don't think we're communicating the...

▲ 1/2 ▼

## Another possible solution: Review-Only Submissions

## Is this a good idea?

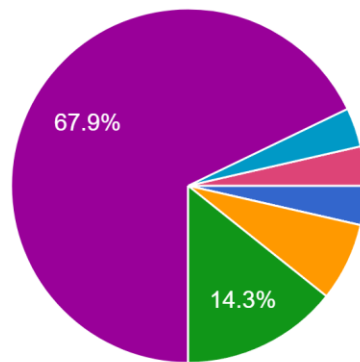
28 responses



- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- I like #1 and feel that is a necessity. Not sure about #2. I feel that #3 is not an...
- No. More confusing systems/options....
- Don't review non-military books
- I would not raise the submission price....
- From what I've seen (admittedly a limit...
- I don't like the idea of MWSA becomin...

## If MWSA begins accepting books for review-only, and you have a choice between a normal review/award consideration and a review-only one, you would...

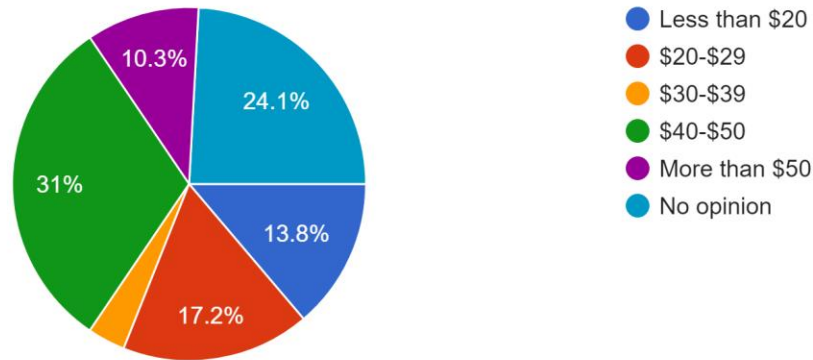
28 responses



- strongly prefer the review-only option
- slightly prefer the review-only option
- not have a preference
- slightly prefer the review/award consideration (3-reviewer) option
- strongly prefer the review/award consideration (3-reviewer) option
- I don't understand the purpose of review only.
- Even when I strongly disagree, I find t...

## Cost for Review-Only Option

29 responses



## Your overall impression, plans for next year, and additional comments/suggestions

In terms of credibility, utility, and sustainability, I feel that MWSA's review and awards program is...

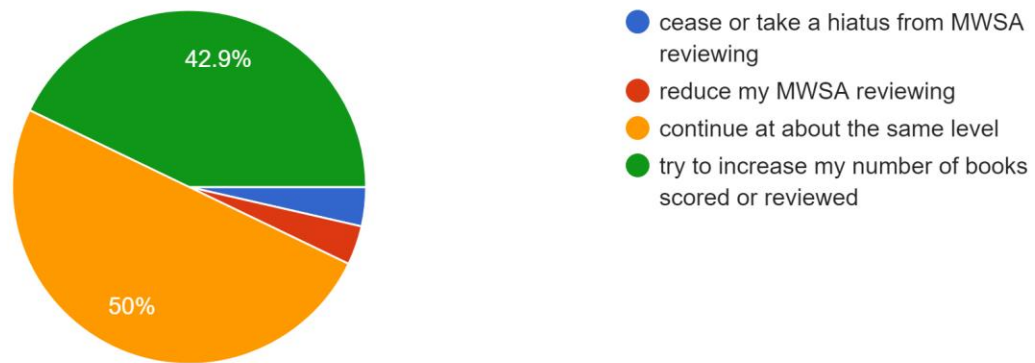
28 responses





## For the 2023 Season, I plan to...

28 responses



## Comments & Suggestions

Overall, I think the review process is a very good one. Also, I both learn from and enjoy reading other reviewers' comments. That's been an important part of my learning process in this, my first year as a reviewer. I greatly appreciate MWSA and this rich opportunity for aspiring military writers. Thank you all for your leadership.

I view being a reviewer as an honorable position; arrived at only after demonstrated achievements, i.e., a book award winner, published writer of note, editor, or accredited teacher. Therefore, those being judged will know that any merits (or criticisms) they derive from reviews come from "experts." (I know--I know: chicken and egg.) Maybe a first step is to invite MWSA book award winners as "qualified" and eligible to join the 'chamber of judges.' No one should be coerced into judging with payment or rewards other than being a judge adds qualifications for MWSA leadership positions.

It might be wise to limit the number of books a reviewer can review at any one time to one. This would reduce the chances of well-meaning reviewers biting off more than they can chew.

No idea what is in the reviewer admin section of the website - so ignore my answer. Consider refining the question to remind us what can be found there. I am sure I saw it but this far after my last review - no idea what is there.

While writers in this space may be stretched for funds, I believe it's worth the increase in cost to enable some type of compensation for the reviewers. It takes as much effort and maybe more to adequately review a book and/or score for an award.

As a reviewer, I often feel validated when I see other reviewers picking up on issues that I spotted as well. When we have divergence conferences, I often am enlightened one way or another by others seeing what I did not. As a single reviewer, the burden would be on one person to ferret out grammatical errors, story line, character development, loose ends, and the like. This can be difficult if, for instance, grammar is not one's strong suit.

I've been a reviewer the past two years (5-7 books per year - that's about all I can handle). I've been impressed with the review system and think it's a great member benefit. Thanks to all our dedicated board members who make this happen. I don't have any problem with closing the window temporarily - or even at a certain # cutoff (e.g. 75 books) - or whatever number you feel can be read and reviewed comfortably by the available reviewers. The "season" does not have to go so long. It would be good to be able to notify award winners earlier to allow them more time to consider attending the banquet.

I believe the Review/Award program has exceptional value to both MWSA and authors and merits higher fees. Personally I do not need any incentives to participate as a reviewer.

I do not like the idea of raising costs for the review/awards submissions. Our mission is to encourage writing, and we are a non-profit. Your earlier idea of putting excess books on a wait list is a better idea. What another entity charges for a review is irrelevant.

Membership rebates and gift certificates are nice gestures and in limited quantity they might incentivize more members to review, or reviewers to review more. The risk is they may discourage selection of the longer works and encourage quantity over quality. If they are used, they should be small, token amounts to show appreciation. Re: the number of reviewers required per review or review/award submission, I'd suggest the following approach to increase reviewer bandwidth and make the workload more manageable: 1) create levels for reviewers, like level 1 for beginner and 2 for experienced reviewers. The level would be based on committee nomination, or a function of some or all of the following elements: membership tenure, books reviewed, styles reviewed, quality of reviews, and deviation from final scores. 2) books submitted for reviews only would be reviewed by one level 2 reviewer or two level 1 reviewers (reducing workload per book by 33-66%). Books submitted for reviews/awards would be reviewed by two reviewers if one or both are level 2 reviewers, and three reviewers if all are level 1 reviewers (reducing workload per book by up to 33%). General suggestion: I still think all reviewers would benefit from an updated standard template to facilitate the review process. One was shared with me and it's very helpful, but I'll bet someone out there has a "best-in-class" one that everyone could use. Thank you

Until I caught on, I found the system confusing. I think it's great that we have overwhelming numbers of submissions and we should recruit more member-reviewers to meet those needs. We need to recruit and have adequate mandatory training.

The standards for editorial reviewing are too high. My day job is as an editor at the Modern War Institute at West Point. Even with two of us reviewing and a clear style guide (CMOS), we still probably let through an error or two an article of 1000-2500 words. So only having two or three per 300 pages of a book (often self-published) is excessive. Go easier on them, reduce the weight/importance of cover art. Consider adding a category for maps/photos. So many of them are just fuzzy or not labeled.

I signed up to be a reviewer this year because of the requests on your website and in email blasts expressing the need. I wanted to give back to MWSA. I was pleasantly surprised that I also learned add'l writing skills, plus I got to read interesting military stories with new details about history. It was a fulfilling experience.

Thank you for the experience of reviewing. In particular, seeing what others say about the same book has been eye-opening and enlightening. That's my favorite part, something like a book club without the wine.

I'm ok with anyone seeing what I wrote above.

Sorry I couldn't participate this year...

1. It would be good to share all review info except "Eyes Only" section with authors - lots of value added for members. 2. I recommended some kind of recognition program earlier - people like to know they are doing a good job. And it's a military reminder. 3. I think it would be a good idea to **STRONGLY** recommend reviewers post their MWSA reviews (particularly positive ones) at the end of the season on Goodreads and Amazon. This helps our members and also publicizes MWSA as an organization if the review is identified as such. Thanks again for all you do, Awards Directors!