Get your students involved

What is Frontiers for Young Minds

Frontiers for Young Minds is a non-profit scientific journal written by scientists and reviewed by a board of kids and students, providing a collection of freely available scientific articles shaped for younger audiences by their own young peers. Frontiers for Young Minds was recognized as one of the American Library Association’s 2014 Great Websites for Kids.

How does it work?

Scientists rewrite versions of their recent publications for readers between the ages of 8-15. Young Reviewers, with the guidance of a Science Mentor, then provide feedback to the authors about how to make the manuscript more meaningful, clear, and interesting for young readers. This feedback happens during a ‘review event’, in which the Science Mentor empowers the Young Minds to think critically about the manuscript they are reviewing. The Science Mentor also shares their experiences as a scientist and introduces the idea of why scientists publish their work.

After authors make changes to address the concerns of the Young Reviewers, the articles are published and made freely available online. Frontiers for Young Minds not only involves young people directly in the scientific process, but also creates a collection of high-quality resources that can be used for instruction, enrichment, or informal learning.

Who are our Science Mentors?

Science Mentors are scientists with experience in publishing and the peer review process who collaborate with educators to plan and prepare for the day of the review event.

What is required?

Each group that wishes to participate needs to work with a Science Mentor. Science Mentors can be recruited from universities, hospitals, or research facilities – either through outreach programs or individually. While most groups work with a local Science Mentor, others have worked with groups of mentors, or with a remotely based mentor.

How to get started?

1. Write to the Frontiers for Young Minds Editorial Office (kids@frontiersin.org) for additional information.
2. Recruit a Science Mentor.
3. Get your students excited about being part of the scientific process.