

Although anonymous reviewers of journal manuscripts try to be sweet in their comments, articles sometimes push their goodwill to the bitter limit. A selection of 2010 REFEREE QUOTES from Environmental Microbiology's year-end issue illustrates both the aggravations and delights of the job [doi.org/10.1111/j.1462-2920.2010.02394.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1462-2920.2010.02394.x)

- The lack of negative controls ... results in the authors being lost in the funhouse. Unfortunately, I do not think they even realize this.
- The writing and data presentation are so bad that I had to leave work and go home early and then spend time to wonder what life is about.
- This paper is desperate. Please reject it completely and then block the author's email ID so they can't use the online system in future.
- It is always a joy to review manuscripts such as this. Well-conceived, well executed, well edited. Clean. Pristine. From start to finish.
- Reading a well written manuscript before X-mas makes me feel like Santa Claus.