

Would you welcome the assistance of A Critical Friend?

You may, if you wish, seek the assistance of a “critical friend” during your preparation or revision of a paper for BJET. In this innovative arrangement, the critical friend will:

1. Be nominated by the editor
2. Respond to an invitation from you, indicating the assistance you would welcome – just as you might receive a response from someone you already know, of whom you might have made a similar request.
3. Communicate with you electronically and confidentially.
4. Engage in a helpful relationship with you, which will not be reported to the editor or to the referees
5. Help you to produce a paper which is the best that you can write, from what you have available to offer.
6. Use their experience as a BJET referee to inform the assistance they offer.
7. Read the referees’ comments and the editor’s suggestions , if you have already submitted a draft which has been sent back; and suggest how you can best respond to them. This may well take the form of an exchange in general terms before possible changes to the paper are considered in detail.
8. Probably suggest any minor changes in the text, by using “Highlight Changes” on a Word document.
9. Probably suggest major changes in the text in footnote comments relating to the relevant section
10. Also perhaps offer some general thoughts in a cover note with which the draft bearing suggestions is returned.
11. Repeat this process, or explain their suggestions, if you so wish and if you judge that this may be helpful to you.
12. But *not* speak or judge on behalf of the editor, nor be in a position to give assurances that your revised or refined paper will be acceptable to the referees and editor.

In return, you will:

1. Be completely free to accept or reject the suggestions made to you, without having to justify your decisions to your critical friend.
2. Terminate the relationship at any time you so wish.
3. Provide a general report on the usefulness of this innovatory approach to you as a writer.
4. Retain full ownership of your text.
5. Feel no obligation to acknowledge the assistance of your critical friend.