

Preliminary Paper – Additional Information

Preliminary papers will be read using the following criteria:

1. **Personal Relationship to Symbol/Subject**
The writer discusses his/her personal connection to the symbol/subject, including why he/she selected this symbol/subject plus how it is meaningful to the writer and how it has impacted the writer's personal and/or professional life. The writer communicates a strong interest in the symbol/subject.
2. **Amplification of Symbol/Subject**
The writer amplifies the symbol/subject through discussion of theory, mythology, fairy tales, art, dreams, religion, and/or views from various cultures/collectives, including the writer's own culture. In a thoughtful, insightful, and competent manner, the writer surveys literature regarding the symbol/subject. The amplification catches the interest and imagination of the reader, and indicates a deepening of understanding. The writer adds value to the discussion through providing his/her own reflections, including the transformative nature of the symbol/subject.
3. **Impact of Symbol/Subject in Sandplay**
The writer discusses the impact of the symbol/subject in sandplay, using hypothetical and/or actual sandplay scenes from his/her own experience. When discussing a symbol, the writer uses one to three photographs of sandplay scenes to competently describe how the symbol enhanced the therapeutic process of the sandplayer. When discussing a subject, the writer discusses how this information enhanced his/her knowledge about sandplay and how this knowledge might impact the sandplay process. The writer also indicates what types of investigation need to be done to further the understanding of the symbol/subject.
4. **Mechanics of Symbol/Subject Paper**
The writer submits a paper that meets professional standards. The paper is well written with a logical structure, e.g., contains an introduction, middle and conclusion. Care is given to writing mechanics, e.g., correct spelling, sentence structure, and grammar. The format of the paper and references follow APA standards.

The applicant contacts a preliminary paper reader from the list in the appendix. The applicant may not have a dual relationship with the prospective preliminary paper reader. If the reader agrees to read the paper, the applicant mails the paper, along with Appendix Form 5. The reader reads the paper and completes the assessment. All four areas of criteria must be rated as indicated on Form 5. Strengths and/or improvements may be indicated in each area. If approved, the reader writes "Approved" and dates the front page of the first paper, and along with Form 5, mails copies to the applicant, advisor and STA office. The reader is asked to return the paper to the applicant.

If the paper has been evaluated to be insufficient, the reader is asked to suggest corrective action for the applicant to take. The applicant can respond to the suggestions or find another reader. If the second reader also evaluates the paper as insufficient, a discussion will take place with the two readers and the advisor and

recommendations will be made to the applicant. If the applicant is dissatisfied with the final recommendations, an appeal can be made to the Exceptions Committee.

Preliminary Paper Readers

Requirements to be a Preliminary Paper Reader:

1. Must have been a certified member for at least two years.
2. Can be either a certified or teaching member.
3. Must be a member in good standing.
4. Must not have a dual role with the applicant.
5. Must have completed preliminary paper reading training (see members only page <http://www.sandplay.org/membersonly/index.htm> for information).

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