



The Importance of Acknowledgments

Christina Gallucci, Director of Operations

Journal Prep Services

Toronto, ON Canada

2018

<https://www.journalprep.com>



The Importance of an Acknowledgments Section

Having worked in academic research and publishing for my entire career, I am particularly opinionated about the 'Acknowledgments' section in various works, posters, and so forth. Seldom does a researcher operate in a silo; there is usually a team of supporters, or those who are carrying the weight of the work on a given project, who pour their passion, dedication, and desire to learn into what they do. The research/lab managers, coordinators, assistants, students, volunteers, interns, and so forth – essentially, anyone who becomes involved in a project or lab along the way – all inevitably become stakeholders in a project. They work with a researcher because they admire that work; frequently, their efforts are not solely driven by the desire for a paycheck.

It has been shown that acknowledgments for one's work, ideas, or contributions are a significant morale booster. They foster productivity and, in their own way, give your team members a voice. Your team members become recognized as contributors to and stakeholders of your project. That kind of buy-in can have the power to drive people to feel safe to speak up about innovative ideas, to deliver their best work, to show up to work, to give them something to hold on to or to aspire toward. I have been incredibly fortunate to have worked with many people who believe in this same philosophy. I have also been on the other side as well, where individual contributions are not recognized, or where credit for one person's work is soaked up by someone else. That can create a drop in morale, which may eventually make its way through a team and create toxic workplaces, where one-upmanship and within-team competition reigns supreme, and where backhanded tactics to get ahead seem to be the only way to thrive.

At the end of the day, great managers/supervisors/higher ups are in the position to create a strong team of good workers. Everyone has their strengths and the things they can stand to improve upon and learn about. I truly believe the best of someone can be fostered by supporting them, acknowledging them, and giving them a reason to stay motivated to grow and learn. For some, it can solidify their identity and give them a foundation upon which to build their own success story, whatever that looks like. Great leaders inevitably create great leaders, so my recommendation is – word count permitting – to try to acknowledge those individual contributors to help remind them that they, and their contributions, matter.



©Journal Prep Services 2018

Toronto, ON Canada

Citation

Journal Prep Services. *The Importance of Acknowledgments*. [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Journal Prep Services; 2018. Available from:
<https://www.journalprep.com/resources.php/Acknowledgments.pdf>

©Journal Prep Services 2018