Author’s response to reviews

Title: A tutorial on pilot studies: the what, why and how

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Summary of the Changes

Part I. Major revisions (we require the author to make these changes)

1. Tables: we are unable to display shading and colours within the tables. Can we therefore ask you to use another method of highlighting the shaded text e.g. by making it bold.

\textit{We removed the colours and shading within the table.}

2. Reference 30: please provide a functioning link to website "http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm"

\textit{We have replaced it with a functioning link.}

3. Table 1: the URLs "www.mh.state.oh.us/offices/oper/glossary.html", "www.eskimo.com/~hwa/glossary/glo_p.html", "www.alcase.org/education/publications/glossarypr.html" and "www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/social/psych/designgl.html" do not work - please provide functioning links. In addition, "www.vnet5.org/reg/handbook/glossary.html" requires a password to enter - please provide an alternative link, or include the logon details alongside the URL.

\textit{We have provided alternative links and added more web definitions of a pilot study. All the links are working well so far.}

Part II. Minor revisions (we can make these changes for you, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above)

4. Highlighting/tracking: Please remove all highlighting, coloured text and tracking from the manuscript.

\textit{We have removed all highlighting, coloured text and tracking from the manuscript.}

5. Title page: please remove "Commentary" from the top of page 1.

\textit{We have removed “Commentary” from page 1.}

6. Title: please use sentence case in the title, both in the manuscript file and the submission system. Capitalise only the first word and proper nouns, and do not include full stops/periods. For example, "The Title of My Prestigious Publication: A Scientific Study." should be changed to "The title of my prestigious publication:
a scientific study’

_We have changed the upper cases letters into lower case letters in the title._

7. Author list: the list of authors in the manuscript should be written exactly as they are in the submission system, both in style and order. The preferred style is ‘First name Initial Last name’ (e.g. Joe F Bloggs)

_We made no changes in the author names._

8. Box: unfortunately we cannot incorporate text boxes. Please remove the box-out formatting on pages 12-14.

_We changed to use text format._

9. Concluding remarks: please retitle this section "Conclusions".

_We changed the title of this section to “Conclusions”._

10. Underlining: Please note that underlining is not supported in the final full text; you may wish to change it to bold.

_We removed the underline._

11. Tables- please remove the visible vertical lines from your tables

_Visible vertical lines were changed to invisible._

12. Typography: Please take this opportunity to check your manuscript for any typographical errors and to make any final corrections or revisions. This is the final proofing stage for your manuscript, and you will not be able to make any changes after acceptance.

_We have read the manuscript thoroughly for typos_