SCIENCE’S 2016 INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

This is an abbreviated version of Science’s Information for Authors. Complete Information for Authors is available at www.sciencemag.org/authors/science-information-authors

PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS

Research Articles present a major scientific advance, and those articles whose significance can be demonstrated in 4500 words and 6 figures or tables will be published in print and online. Often, Research Articles require additional text and figures to adequately document the findings. Articles that need more than 4500 words and 6 figures or tables will be published in full online with only an extended abstract in print. Requests for the longer online format should provide justification for the additional presentation length. All Research Articles include an abstract, an introduction, and sections with brief subheads.

Reports present new research results of broad significance and include an abstract and introductory paragraph. Reports should have approximately 2500 words, about 30 references, and up to 4 figures or tables. Reports are published in full online and in print.

For Research Articles and Reports, other information needed to support the conclusions should be presented as supplementary materials.

Reviews (6000 words, 4 to 6 figures or tables, and up to 100 references) are now published online with an extended abstract in print. Reviews describe new developments of interdisciplinary significance and highlight unresolved questions and future directions. Most Reviews are solicited by the editors, but unsolicited submissions are considered occasionally.

INSIGHTS

Science’s Insights section presents analysis by scientists and other experts on issues of interest to Science readers.

Perspectives (1000 to 1500 words, 1 to 2 figures, up to 15 references) can either (i) analyze recent research developments or (ii) present issues at the intersection between science and society that have policy implications. Research-related Perspectives should not primarily discuss the author’s own work. Essays on science education and its practice, from preschool to postgraduate education, will also be considered.

Books et al. (up to 1000 words) present reviews of current books, multimedia, exhibitions, and films.

Books et al. reviews and Perspectives are frequently solicited by the editors, but unsolicited contributions will be considered.

Letters (up to 300 words) discuss material published in Science in the last 3 months or issues of general interest. Letters are edited for clarity and space.

COMMENTS

Technical Comments (up to 1000 words, 2 figures or tables, and 15 references) are published online and discuss the core conclusions and/or methodology of research published in Science within the previous 3 months. A brief abstract is included in the Letters section of the print edition. Technical Comments should not present new data or other previously unpublished work nor be based on new findings or concepts that would not have been accessible to the authors when the target paper was written. Pertinent comments on noncentral aspects of a paper should be submitted as E-letters.

Authors of Technical Comments should contact the authors of the target paper before submitting their manuscript, and should submit to Science evidence of any correspondence. Technical Comments may be peer-reviewed. We post accepted Technical Comments promptly online along with a formal reply from the authors of the original paper.

E-letters. Brief online comments can be posted on papers or news stories from the full-text view on Science’s website. Authors are identified and must agree to our terms and conditions.

MANUSCRIPT SELECTION

We are committed to the prompt evaluation and publication of submitted papers through our fully electronic submission and review process. Papers are assigned to a staff editor who has knowledge of the field(s) discussed in the manuscript. Most submitted papers are rated for suitability by members of the Board of Reviewing Editors (see the masthead). The editors at Science consider their advice in selecting papers for in-depth review. Authors of papers that are not highly rated are notified by e-mail within 2 weeks. Membership in AAAS is not a factor in selection.

Papers selected for in-depth review are reviewed by at least two anonymous referees. Reviewers are contacted before being sent a paper and are asked to return comments within 2 weeks. We are able to expedite the review process for papers that require rapid assessment. Papers selected for publication are edited to improve accuracy and clarity and to shorten, if necessary. Most papers are published 4 to 8 weeks after acceptance. The accepted versions of selected papers are made available through online publication prior to the final copy-edited version appearing in a print issue.

Papers cannot be resubmitted over a disagreement on interest or relative merit. If a paper was rejected on the basis of serious reviewer error, resubmission may be considered. Papers submitted to Science but not accepted for publication may be eligible for publication in Science Signaling, Science Translational Medicine, or Science Advances.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Authorship. All authors must agree to be so listed and must have seen and approved the manuscript and its submission to Science. Any changes in authorship must be approved in writing by all the original authors. Submission of a paper that has not been approved by all authors will result in immediate rejection without appeal.

Prior publication. Science will not consider any paper or component of a paper that has been published or is under consideration elsewhere. Distribution on the Internet may be considered prior publication and may compromise the originality of the paper. Reporting the main findings

SUBMITTING A MANUSCRIPT OR LETTER

Manuscripts and letters should be submitted through our submission website, https://cts.sciencemag.org/submit/login.html.

For details, see www.sciencemag.org/authors/science-information-authors. We are not able to accept submissions by e-mail. Your submission should include a cover letter containing a statement of the paper’s main point and any information needed to ensure a fair review process.
of a paper in the mass media may compromise the novelty of the work and thus its appropriateness for *Science*. Please contact the editors with questions regarding these policies.

**Human studies.** Informed consent must have been obtained for studies on humans after the nature and possible consequences of the studies were explained. All research on humans must have approval from the author’s institutional review board (IRB) or equivalent body.

**Animal care.** Care of experimental animals must be in accordance with the author’s institutional guidelines.

**Preclinical studies.** Authors must indicate whether there was a pre-experimental plan for data handling, whether they conducted a sample size estimation, whether samples were treated randomly, and whether the experimenter was blind to the conduct of the experiment.

**Related papers.** Copies of papers submitted to other journals by any of the authors that relate to the paper submitted to *Science* must be included with the submission.

**Unpublished data and personal communications.** Citations to unpublished data, in-press papers, and personal communications cannot be used to support claims in the paper.

**Dual use.** Authors and reviewers are expected to notify editors if a manuscript could be considered to report dual-use research of concern. Papers identified as such will be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief for further evaluation. If necessary, outside reviewers with expertise in the area will be consulted.

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE**

**Authorship, funding, and conflict of interest.** All authors must disclose all affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships related to a paper, including those that could be perceived as potential sources of bias, before acceptance. *Science* now requires all authors of accepted papers to affirm their contribution to a paper and agree to our policies on data and materials availability. The senior author from each group is required to have examined the raw data that his/her group has produced.

**Data deposition.** Before publication, large data sets—including but not limited to microarray data, protein or DNA sequences, and atomic coordinates and structure factors for macromolecular or chemical structures—must be deposited in an approved database, an accession number must be included in the published paper, and the deposited information must be released at the time of publication. Electron micrograph maps must also be deposited. Approved databases are listed online. Large data sets with no appropriate repository must be housed as part of the supplementary materials at *Science*, or when this is not possible, on the author’s website, provided that a copy of the data is held in escrow at *Science* to ensure availability to readers.

**Data availability and materials sharing.** After publication, all data and computer codes necessary to understand, assess, and extend the conclusions of the manuscript must be available to any reader of *Science*, and all reasonable requests for materials must be fulfilled. Before acceptance, *Science* must be informed of any restrictions on sharing of materials (material transfer agreements or patents, for example) applying to materials used in the reported research.

**License and access policies.** Authors retain copyright but must agree to grant to *Science* an exclusive license to publish the paper in print and online. Any author whose university or institution has policies or other restrictions limiting their ability to assign exclusive publication rights (such as Harvard, MIT, or Open University) must apply for a waiver or other exclusion from that policy or those restrictions. After publication, authors may post the accepted version of the paper on their personal website and are provided one referrer link that can be posted on a personal or institutional web page, through which users can freely access the published paper on *Science*’s online site. *Science* allows deposition of accepted papers into repositories if mandated by funders with a release 6 months after publication and provided that a link to the final version published in *Science* is included. Original research papers are freely accessible with registration on *Science*’s website 12 months after publication.

**Press coverage.** The paper should remain a privileged document and should not be released to the press or the public before publication. Questions should be referred to the AAAS Office of Public Programs (phone 202-326-6440).

---

**Manuscript Preparation**

**Titles** should be no more than 96 characters for Reports, Research Articles, and Reviews.

**One-sentence summaries** should be submitted for all papers.

**Abstracts** explain to the general reader why the research was done and why the results are important. The abstract should present, in no more than 125 words, background information to convey the context of the research, describe the results, and draw general conclusions.

**Text** starts with a brief introduction describing the paper’s significance, which should be intelligible to readers in other disciplines. Technical terms should be defined. Symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms should be defined the first time they are used. All tables and figures should be cited in numerical order.

**References and notes** are numbered in the order in which they are cited, first through the text, then through the text of the references, then through the figure and table legends, and finally through the supplementary materials. Each reference should have a unique number; do not combine references or embed references in notes. Do not use op. cit. or ibid. Include titles in references. They will be included in the online version. There should be only one reference list, containing all of the citations in the paper and in the supplementary materials.

**Acknowledgments**, including complete funding information; a statement indicating the availability of data, including accession numbers; and any information related to authorship conflict of interest should be gathered into an unnumbered note at the end of the references.

**Tables** should be included at the end of the references and should supplement, not duplicate, the text. The first sentence of the table legend should be a brief descriptive title. Every vertical column should have a heading, consisting of a title with the unit of measure in parentheses. Units should not change within a column.

**Figure legends** should be double-spaced and in numerical order. The figure title should be given as the first line of the legend. No single legend should be longer than ~200 words. Nomenclature, abbreviations, symbols, and units used in a figure should match those used in the text. Units should be metric and follow SI conventions.

**Supplementary materials** are posted permanently at the *Science* website, are linked to the manuscript, and are freely available. Files can include materials and methods, figures, tables, and video or audio clips that are important for the integrity of the paper, but not further discussion.

**Figures** should be submitted as part of the online submission or, if necessary for large files only, on a CD or DVD. No part of a figure may be selectively manipulated. When figures are assembled from multiple gels or micrographs, a line or space should indicate the border between two original images. See our online Information for Authors for information on preparing art.

(See www.sciencemag.org/authors for more information.)