

ABT AUTHORS & PHOTOGRAPHERS Guidelines

We encourage our readers, biologists with teaching interests, and biology educators in general, to write for *The American Biology Teacher*. This peer-reviewed journal includes articles for teachers at every level with a focus on high school and post-secondary biology instruction.

Revised January 2016

General Categories

The general categories of articles are:

Feature Article (up to 4000 words) are those of general interest to readers of *ABT*. Consider the following examples of content that falls into the feature article category:

- Research on teaching alternatives, including evaluation of a new method, cooperative learning, concept maps, learning contracts, investigative experiences, educational technology, simulations and games and biology standards
- Social and ethical implications of biology and how to teach such issues, genetic engineering, energy, pollution, agriculture, population, health care, nutrition, sexuality, and gender, and drugs
- Reviews and updates of recent advances in the life sciences in the form of an "Instant Update" that bring readers up-to-date in a specific area
- Imaginative views of the future of biology education and suggestions for coping with changes in schools, classrooms and students
- Other timely and relevant and interesting content like discussions of the role of the Next Generation Science Standards in biology teaching, considerations of the history of biology with implications for the classroom, considerations of the continuum of biology instruction from K-12 to post-secondary teaching environments, contributions that consider the likely/ideal future of science and biology instruction.

Research on Learning (up to 4000 words) includes reports of original research on innovative teaching strategies, learning methods, or curriculum comparisons. Studies should be based on sound research questions, hypotheses, discussion of an appropriate design and procedures, data and analysis, discussion on study limitations, and recommendations for improved learning.

Inquiry and Investigations (up to 3000 words) is the section of *ABT* that features discussion of innovative and engaging laboratory and field-based strategies. Strategies in this section should be original, focused at a particular grade/age level of student, with all necessary instructions, materials list, worksheets and assessment tools, practical, related to either a particular program such as AP and/or linked to standards like NGSS. The most appropriate contributions in this category are laboratory experiences that engage students in inquiry.

Tips, Tricks and Techniques (up to 1500 words but may be much shorter) replaces the How-To-Do-It and Quick Fix articles. This section features a range of suggestions useful for teachers including laboratory, field and classroom activities, motivational strategies to assist students in learning specific concept, modifications of traditional activities, new ways to prepare some aspect of laboratory instruction, etc.

Submission Guidelines

All manuscripts must be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ucpress-abt>

- Authors will be asked to register the first time they enter the site. After receiving a password, authors can proceed to upload their manuscripts through a step-by-step process. Assistance is always available in the "Author Help" link found in the menu on the left side of the page. Additional assistance is available from the Managing Editor (managingeditor@nabt.org).
- Manuscripts must be submitted as Word or WordPerfect files.
- Format manuscripts for 8.5 × 11-inch paper, 12-point font, double-spaced throughout, including tables, figure legends, and references.
- Please place figures (including photos) and tables where they are first cited in the text along with appropriate labels. Make sure to include figure and table citations in the text as it is not always obvious where they should be placed. At the time of initial submission, figures, tables and images should be low resolution so that the final file size remains manageable.
- If your article is accepted, we will require that figures be submitted as individual figure files in higher resolution form. See below for file format and resolution requirements.
- **NOTE:** Authors should be aware that color is rarely used within the journal so all artwork, figures, tables, etc. must be legible in black and white. If color is important to understanding your figures, please consider alternative ways of conveying the information.
- Authors are encouraged to submit multimedia files. Acceptable file formats include MP3, AVI, MOV, WMV, and FLV.

Editorial Procedures

- Communications will be directed to only the first author of multiple-authored articles.
- At least three individuals who have expertise in the respective content area will review each article.
- Although the editors attempt to make decisions on articles as soon as possible after receipt, this process can take six to eight months with the actual date of publication to follow. Authors will be emailed editorial decisions as soon as they are available.
- Accepted manuscripts will be forwarded to the Copy Editor for editing. This process may involve making changes in style and content. However, the author is ultimately responsible for scientific and technical accuracy. Page proofs will be sent to authors for final review before publication at which time, only minor changes can be made.

continued

Writing & Style Guidelines

The *Chicago Manual of Style, 14th Edition* is to be used in regards to questions of punctuation, abbreviation, and style. List all references in alphabetical order on a separate page at the end of the manuscript. References must be complete and in *ABT* style. Please review a past issue for examples. Use first person and a friendly tone whenever appropriate. Use concise words to emphasize your point rather than capitalization, underlining, italics, or boldface. Use the SI (metric) system for all weights and measures.

NOTE: All authors must be current members of NABT or a charge of \$100 per page must be paid before publication.

Several times a year the *ABT* has issues that focus on a specific area of biology education. Future focus issues are published in most issues. The editors highly encourage potential authors to consider writing their manuscripts to align with the future focus topics.

Thank you for your interest in *The American Biology Teacher*. We look forward to seeing your manuscripts soon.

William McComas, Editor-in-Chief, ABTEditor@nabt.org
Mark Penrose, Managing Editor, managingeditor@nabt.org

Preparing Figure Artwork

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Halftone (photographic) figures

Digital files must meet the following guidelines:

- Minimum resolution of 300 DPI, though 600 DPI is preferred.
- Acceptable file formats are TIFF and JPEG.
- Set to one-column (3.5" wide) or two-column size (7" wide).
- If figure originates from a web site, please include the URL in the figure caption. Please note that screen captures of figures from a web-site are normally too low in resolution for use.

Line art figures

- Minimum resolution of 600 DPI, though 1200 DPI is preferred.
- Acceptable file formats are TIFF, BMP, and EPS.
- Set to one-column (3.5" wide) or two-column size (7" wide).

If you have any questions, contact Mark Penrose at managingeditor@nabt.org.

Submitting ABT Cover Images

Submissions of cover photographs from NABT members are strongly encouraged. Covers are selected based on the quality of the image, originality, overall composition, and overall interest to life science educators. *ABT* has high standards for cover image requirements and it is important for potential photographers to understand that the size of the cover image generally precludes images taken with cell phones, point-and-shoot camera and even some older model digital SLR cameras.

Please follow the requirements listed below.

1. E-mail possible cover images for review to Assistant Editor, Kathleen Westrich at kmwestrich@yahoo.com.
2. Choose images with a vertical subject orientation and a good story to tell.
3. Avoid cropping the subject too tightly. It is best to provide an area of background around the subject.
4. Include a brief description of the image, details of the shot (i.e., circumstances, time of day, location, type of camera, camera settings, etc.), and biographical information in your e-mail message.
5. Include your name, home and e-mail address, and phone numbers where you can be reached.
6. Please ensure that the image meets the minimum standards for publication listed below and has not been editors or enhanced in any way. The digital file must meet the minimum resolution of 300 pixels per inch (PPI)—preferred is 400 PPI— and at a size of 8.5 x 11.25". We accept TIFF or JPEG images only.
7. For exceptional images, the editors will also accept sharp, clear, color 35 mm slides. Submit only the original; duplicates will not be accepted. Be sure to clearly label your slides with your name and contact information in ink. Contact Assistant Editor Kathy Westrich beforehand to discuss the possibility of submitting a 35mm slide or other non-digital format for consideration as an *ABT* cover.