Article Categories

A note about article word count: Please recognize that tables, figures, and photographs add to the overall length of the article. One page of text has approximately 1,000 words, therefore a 1/4-page graphic will count for 250 words. More extensive graphics should be budgeted accordingly. References are also included in the final article word count.

**Feature Article** (up to 4,500 words) includes topics of general interest to readers of *ABT*. Consider the following examples of content that would be suitable for 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 and life science education standards
- Social and ethical implications of biology and how to teach such issues as genetic modification, energy production, agriculture, climate change, health care, nutrition, and cultural responsiveness
- Reviews and updates of recent advances in the life sciences in the form of an “Instant Update” that brings readers up-to-date in a specific area
- Imaginative views of the future of biology education and suggestions for adjusting to changes in schools, classrooms, and student populations
- Other timely, relevant, and interesting content such as discussions of the role of the Next Generation Science Standards in biology teaching, considerations of the nature of science with implications for the classroom, considerations of the continuum of biology instruction from K–12 to post-secondary teaching environments, or contributions that consider the likely/ideal future of science and biology instruction

**Research on Learning** (up to 4,500 words) includes reports of original research on innovative teaching strategies, learning methods, or curricular comparisons. Studies should be based on sound research questions, hypotheses, discussion of appropriate design and procedures, data and analysis, discussion on study limitations, and recommendations for improved learning outcomes.

**Inquiry and Investigations** (up to 3,500 words) is the section of *ABT* that features discussion of innovative laboratory and field-based strategies. Strategies in this section should be original, engaging, practical, and related to either a particular program such as AP and/or linked to standards such as NGSS. Submissions should also be focused at a particular grade/age level of student and must include all necessary instructions, materials list, worksheets, and assessment tools. Other appropriate contributions in this category are laboratory experiences that engage students in inquiry.

**Tips, Tricks and Techniques** (up to 1,500 words but may be much shorter) features a range of suggestions useful for teachers including laboratory, field, and classroom activities; motivational strategies to assist students in learning specific concepts; modifications of traditional activities; new ways to prepare some aspect of laboratory instruction; etc.

Writing & Style Guidelines

The *Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition* is the guide for questions of punctuation, abbreviation, and style. List all references in alphabetical order on a separate page at the end of the manuscript. 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.

While calls for specific themed issues of *ABT* are infrequent, February and April are traditionally themed editions on Evolution and the Environment, respectively.

Preparing Tables, Figures, and Photographs

**General Requirements**

- When your article is accepted, we will require that figures be submitted as individual figure files in higher resolution format. See below for file format and resolution requirements.
- Authors should be aware that color is limited within the journal. 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.

**Article Photographs**

Digital files must meet the following guidelines:

- Minimum resolution of 300 DPI, 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 website, please include the URL in the figure caption. Please note that screen captures of figures from a website are normally too low in resolution for use.

**Tables and Figures**

- Minimum resolution of 600 DPI, 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 Valerie Haff at managingeditor@nabt.org.

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Submitting Images

Cover Images

Submissions of cover photographs from NABT members are strongly encouraged. Covers are selected based on the quality of the image, originality, 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 required size of the cover image generally precludes images taken with cell phones, point-and-shoot cameras, and even some older model digital SLR cameras.

Please follow the requirements listed below.

- Email possible cover images to Kathleen Westrich at kmwestrich@yahoo.com.
- ABT covers feature an almost-square image with a slight vertical orientation.
- Choose an image with a good story to tell. Do not crop the subject too tightly. It is best to provide an area of background around the subject.
- 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 your biographical information in an email message.
- Include your name, home and email addresses, and phone numbers.
- Please ensure that the image meets the minimum standards for publication listed below and has not been edited or enhanced in any way. The digital file must meet the minimum resolution of 300 pixels per inch (PPI)—preferred is 400 PPI—and a size of 8.5 x 11.25”. We accept TIFF or JPEG images only.

BioMystery Images

Authors who have a photo that does not meet the high resolution required for a cover photo can consider submission as the “BioMystery” image. These submissions can be sent to ABTEditor@nabt.org with a description of the subject of the image.

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

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