

What Makes an Effective Article

--10 Tips for Scholarly Publishing with an ACS Editor

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Intro: American Chemical Society



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* 2018 data

*“Editors are interested in considering papers that are within their **Journal’s Scope** and will be well appreciated by their **Readership**” **

Tip 1: Create a Useful Outline

- Gather data
- Ask questions: WHY? WHAT? HOW?
- Organize data by importance (not chronology)
- Consider possible figures and their location in the text
- Review your outline

Start outlines early in a project; do not wait until the “end.”

Tip 2: Choose the Journal Carefully



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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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REVIEWS

ACS APPLIED MATERIALS
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analytical
chemistry

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SENSORS

ACS Chemical
Neuroscience

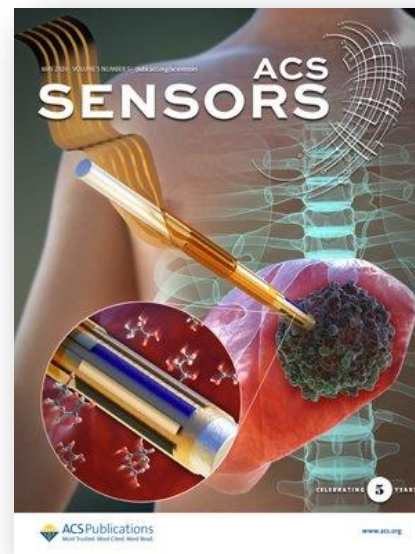
ACS
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science

THE JOURNAL OF
PHYSICAL
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Consider the Journal Scope & Audience

ACS Sensors is a peer-reviewed research journal that is devoted to the dissemination of new and original knowledge on all aspects of sensor science that selectively sense chemical or biological species or processes.

Papers may focus on sensor development for commercialization or developing sensors that are used to provide new scientific knowledge. Articles may be entirely theoretical with regard to sensing, or they may report experimental results.



Tip 3: Read & Follow the Guidelines

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Information for Authors

ACS SENSORS

Overview

Note
ACS Publications uses CrossCheck's iThenticate software to detect instances of similarity in submitted manuscripts. Your manuscript may be screened for similarity to published material. Learn more.

Submission Requirements

Preparing for Online Submission

- Author Guidelines [PDF]
- Calculating Figure Length [PDF]
- Manuscript Templates
- Specifications for Graphics, Acceptable Software, & LaTeX
- Ethical Guidelines
- Copyright & Permissions
- Submit a Manuscript



Last updated: August 21, 2020 [View the latest guidelines online](#)

Manuscript Submission Requirements Checklist

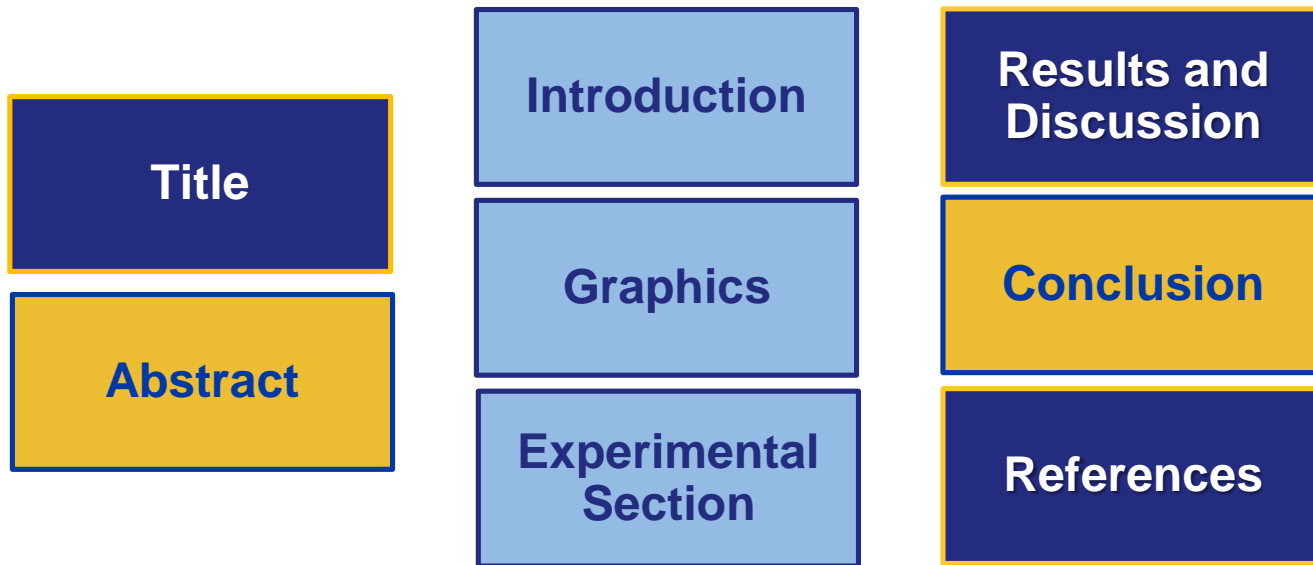
- **Review Ready Submission:** ACS journals have simplified their formatting requirements in favor of a streamlined and standardized review-ready format for an *initial* manuscript submission
- **Scope:** new and original knowledge on all aspects of sensor science that selectively sense chemical or biological species or processes
- **Analytical data:** All analytical data should include uncertainties, comparisons to a standard analytical method, and demonstration of the sensor's performance in the complex samples for which the device is intended to be used
- **Cover letter:** must include a clear statement of the objective of the study and justification of publication in *ACS Sensors*; further it should contain the full manuscript title, the name and complete contact information of the corresponding author, the name(s) of any other author(s), a description of any Supporting Information for Publication and/or for Review Only Material, 4 individuals competent to review the manuscript

- **Structured abstract:** the first sentence should outline the objective of the work (i.e., the sensing issue being addressed); the next two to three sentences should describe the methods being used; the final two to three sentences should outline the findings of the study
- **5-8 keywords:** covering the type of sensor and the application area along with more specific keywords related to the submission
- **References:** in the appropriate format which is, for example, Cuartero, M.; Crespo, G. A.; Bakker, E. Paper- Based Thin-Layer Coulometric Sensor for Halide Determination. *Anal. Chem.* 2015, 87, 1981–1990.
- **Acronyms:** apart from established acronyms well known in the field, these are strongly discouraged
- **Graphics:** easily readable; check font size and avoid inset figures
- **Safety:** authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work
- **Table of contents graphic:** required with the dimensions: 8.25 cm by 4.45 cm (3.25 in by 1.75 in)
- **Paper lengths:** Article <8 pages, letter <4 pages, Sensor Issues ~3 pages, Perspective 6-10 pages, Review 6- 20 pages; justification for longer manuscripts is required
- **Administrative considerations:** All papers must not be under consideration or published elsewhere; manuscripts will be screened with plagiarism software; information on whether the paper has been previously considered elsewhere must be provided; do not forget to list funding sources and ORCID

Tip 4: Tell a Story

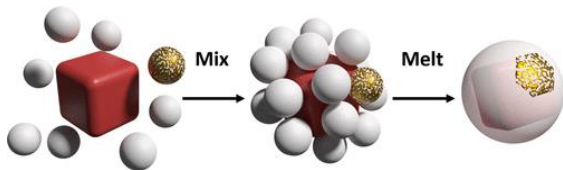
- Paper should have a main theme and punchline
- Avoid “data dumping”
- Provide context to prior literature
- Explain the importance of the problem being addressed
- Share experimental details that allow a reasonably educated person in your field to **re-perform** the experiments and **reproduce** your results
- Analyze the data accurately and objectively
- Provide a strong conclusion, describing how your work moves the field forward, but be realistic
- Mention potential future directions for your work

Anatomy of a Manuscript

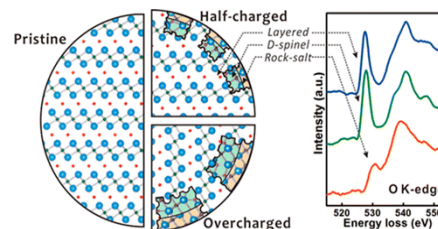


Tip 5: Draw Graphics with Care

- Be clear and precise, simple yet informative
- Complement the text and support your story
- Use **color!**
- Graphics must be original, unpublished artwork created by an author
- Any reproduced graphic should cite the original work after obtaining necessary permissions



ACS Nano, **2018**, DOI: 10.1021/acsnano.8b00521



Chem. Mater. **2014**, DOI: 10.1021/cm403332s

Tip 6: Attract Readers with a Strong Title

- Craft a compelling title – describe your results/findings in as few words as possible, in an evocative and exciting way
- Avoid buzz words and hard-to-justify claims like “first” and “only”
- Avoid asking a question in the title – be clear on what was accomplished

Avoid Overly Long Title:

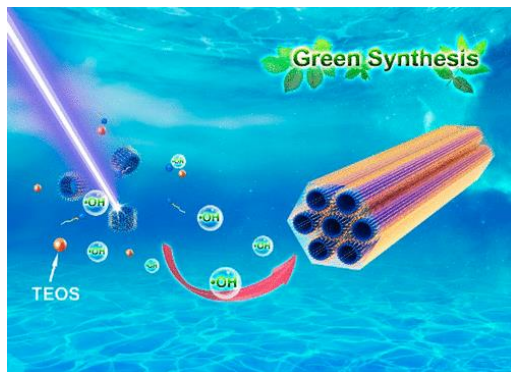
Synthesis, Electrochemistry, Spectroscopic Characterization, and X-ray Crystal Structure of a Novel NacNac-La Complex that Attacks DNA and Cures Cancer

Prefer Shortened Title:

Lanthanum(III)-Diketimate Complex Cleaves DNA at Nanomolar Concentrations

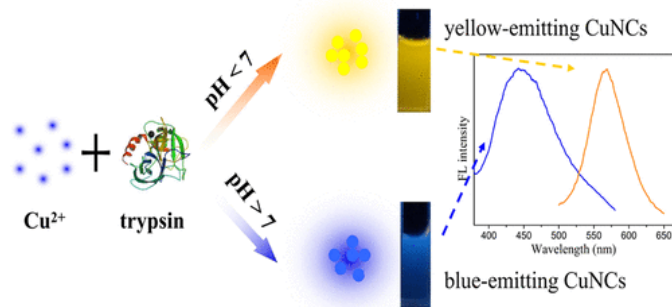
Tip 7: TOC Graphics Count

- Capture the reader's attention
- Give a quick visual impression of the essence of your manuscript



Radical-Facilitated Green Synthesis of Highly Ordered Mesoporous Silica Materials

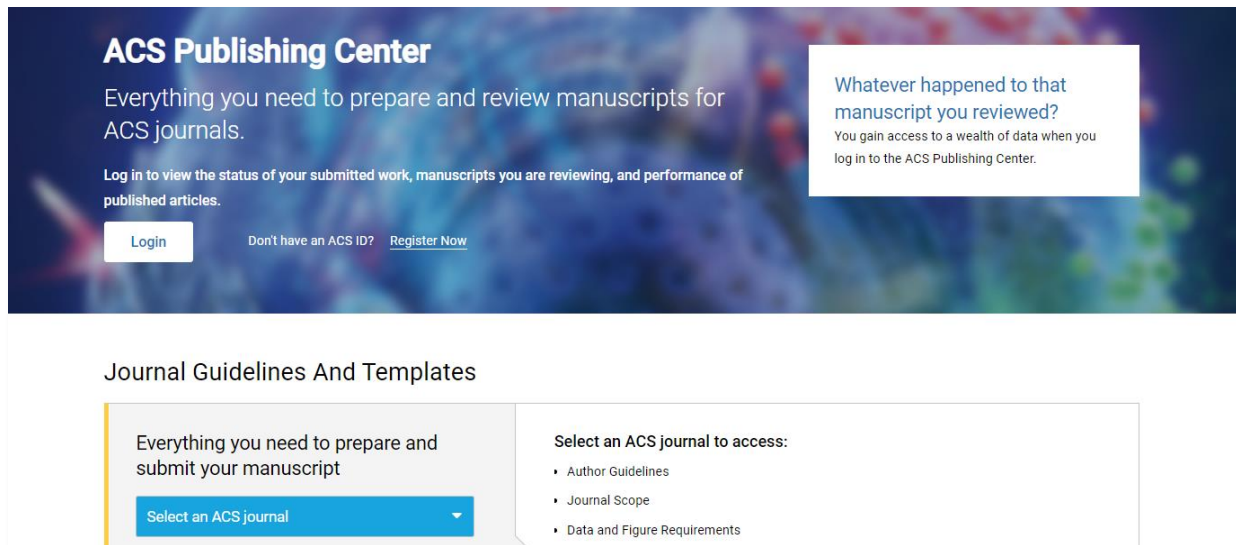
JACS, 2018, DOI: 10.1021/jacs.8b00093



pH-Regulated Synthesis of Trypsin-Templated Copper Nanoclusters with Blue and Yellow Fluorescent Emission

ACS Omega, 2017, DOI: 10.1021/acsomega.7b01052

Tip 8: Revise, Edit, and Rework



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Tip 9: Prepare the SI with Care



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Editorial

pubs.acs.org/OrgLett

Review of Supporting Information at *Organic Letters*

In our continuing effort to ensure that we publish the very best, high quality research, *Organic Letters* began conducting a closer examination of the Supporting Information (SI) submitted with our Letters. We added a staff member fully devoted to this task in 2012 to focus on a more consistent and systematic SI review *prior* to publication. We would like to update you on some of the common problems we have encountered, describe our process, and provide some guidance for those preparing materials for submission to *Organic Letters*.

In addition, we encourage you to review the *Organic Letters* Guidelines for Authors during manuscript and SI preparation.

To assist authors further, we have prepared a checklist to assist in avoiding the most common issues found during SI review (see next page). *This checklist is also provided as Supporting Information for your benefit.* There is no need to include it with the submission documents. Rather, we encourage you to use it as a tool in reviewing the final manuscript and SI. Please share the checklist with coauthors, colleagues, postdoctoral fellows and students and ask them to review the SI prior to submission.

Tip 10: Write a Strong Cover Letter

- **Address the Editor-in-Chief or Associate Editor directly**
- **Include the title of the manuscript and mention the journal name**
- **Highlight the relevance and importance of your work**
- **Explain why the work is appropriate for the journal's readership**

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Simple Checklist for Submission:

- Cover Letter
- MS file (.doc, .pdf)
- Supporting Information
- Author Names, Contact Information
- Contact Information for Preferred Reviewers



ACS GUIDE TO SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION



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Questions