

INSIGHT MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

The following checklist is intended to aid the publication of your manuscript. Please read through the list carefully and amend your manuscript as appropriate. To avoid delays in the production process, please complete and return this sheet with the final version of your manuscript.

Text

Nature will edit text to conform to house style, for clarity and accessibility, and for consistency with other Insight articles. Please check the following points when preparing the final version of your manuscript.

Review

- Title no longer than 80 characters (including spaces), with no punctuation
- First paragraph referenced and no longer than 100 words
- No more than 100 references
- No more than 10% of references with a one-sentence annotation

Progress

- Title no longer than 40 characters (including spaces), with no punctuation
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 60 words
- No more than 40 references
- No more than 10% of references with a one-sentence annotation

Introduction or Overview

- Title no longer than 40 characters (including spaces), with no punctuation
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 60 words
- No more than 30 references

Feature

- Title no longer than 40 characters (including spaces), with no punctuation
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 1 sentence (up to 180 characters including spaces)
- No more than 100 references

Essay

- Title no longer than 40 characters (including spaces), with no punctuation
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 1 sentence (up to 180 characters including spaces)
- No references permitted

Commentary

- Title no longer than 40 characters (including spaces), with no punctuation
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 1 sentence (up to 180 characters including spaces)
- No more than 10 references

ALL manuscripts

- Abbreviations and symbols defined on first use
- Italic type face used for variables, genes and non-English languages; bold font for vectors
- Equations and special characters in Word in 'normal text' or Symbol font (Word Equation Editor avoided where possible)
- Authored in Compatibility Mode if using Word 2007 (i.e., as a Word 97-2003 document; saved as .doc format, NOT .docx)

- No more than 2 levels of subheadings, of up to 44 characters each
- Other articles in this Insight not included in the reference list
- Reference citations in superscript, in order of text, table, figure, box
- Reference list in *Nature* style
- Brief title provided for each figure, table and box
- Figure legends no more than 250 words each
- Boxes no more than 500 words (or 250 words plus a small figure)
- Tables in Word and prepared using the Word Table menu
- Signed competing interests statement submitted with manuscript (<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/policy/form.html>)

For TeX users

Word or rtf formats are preferred, unless there is very extensive use of special characters or equations. Such formats enable on-screen subediting and the preparation of a 'pre-proof', when the editing can be checked before formal proofs are prepared. We have found that this minimizes the chance of errors being inadvertently introduced.

- Word conversion not practicable

Contact us at reviewsandinsights@nature.com for further help and advice on preparing text for publication.

Artwork

Nature will edit figures to conform to house style, for clarity and accessibility, and for clear reproduction in print. Please check the following points when preparing your figures.

Electronic figure formats

- Preferred file formats for line artwork and graphs are EPS, postscript, PDF and Illustrator .ai
- Preferred file formats for photographic images are TIFF and Photoshop .psd and jpeg
- Preferred file format for chemical structures is ChemDraw

See <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final> for a full list of acceptable electronic formats

When preparing and sending figures

- Text (in all artwork), graphs and line artwork in an editable format
- Any images with uneditable labels also provided without labels as separate files
- Photographic images at 300 dpi at print size
- Colour images in CMYK (not RGB) mode
- Statement of origin of each figure and image submitted with manuscript
- Permission obtained and submitted for any illustrations or images to be reproduced or adapted from published work or the Internet
- Suggestions for Insight cover artwork submitted separately

See <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/figures.html> for detailed guidelines. For further help and advice, e-mail our art editors at art@nature.com

Please e-mail reviewsandinsights@nature.com if you have any additional queries.