



jIAPS

The Journal of IAPS | jiaps@iaps.info | iaps.info/jiaps

jIAPS Submission Guidelines

These guidelines are not rigid rules, but simple suggestions on how to write a good jIAPS article. Follow them to increase the chances of your article being accepted. All articles should comply with the [IAPS Code of Conduct](#).

1. Before writing

- Find an **idea**. Anything related to physics or physics students.

Look for inspiration all around you. Read news, scientific magazines, check out the latest research at [arXiv](#), ask researchers around your department, follow IAPS events. The perfect idea might be waiting for you just around the corner.

- Define **your message**. Clear out what you want to get across.

This depends on the type of your article. Are you writing about the latest scientific discovery, an intriguing scientific concept, the fun you had at an IAPS event, or something else? Know the message you are trying to convey before you start writing, it will help you choose the format and style for your article.

- Choose the **target audience**. In our case, it's mostly physics students.

If you want to reach a wider audience, make sure a first-year undergrad can understand you. To paraphrase Einstein, explain things as simply as possible, but not simpler.

2. Format

- Provide **information about authors**. Preferably includes name, IAPS NC/LC (if applicable), university and photograph for each author, sent separately from the article.

John Smith, NC USA, University of Pittsburgh (photograph attached to email)

- Use **Google Docs** (preferred), Microsoft Word or LibreOffice. Don't send LaTeX files.

jIAPS Staff also uses it to edit your articles, so this helps us.

- Use **consistent formatting** for text. Preferably 12 point, sans-serif, single-spacing, black.

Just like this, *not like this*.

- Keep **titles and subtitles short**. 10 words at most.

“Will we all die because of the Higgs field?” is fine, but *“Are we all going to die because of the Higgs field? Read this article and find out”* probably isn't.

- Keep **text relatively short**. 800 words at most.

Just because there is a limit of 800 words, that doesn't mean you have to reach it. Your article won't be judged based on its length.

- Send **figures as separate files** and provide a **short caption**. Preferably use PNG or JPG files, up to 10 MB each.

If you can't find appropriate illustrations for your article, you can browse free image sites such as [Pixabay](#) or [Unsplash](#). Note: you have to check attribution rules specific to the source of images you're using.

3. Style

- Check **grammar**, **spelling** and **punctuation** before submitting.

There are many available checkers on the internet. Make good use of them.

- Write your article **like a story**. With a clear beginning, a middle and an end, linked by a thread throughout.

The reader should be enticed to read on, but also be able to easily follow where the article is taking them. You can also use sign-posts (e.g. *however*, *in conclusion*, etc) so that readers will be able to follow the logical development in your writing.

- Use **complete sentence structures** while avoiding run-on sentences. Also, use the **active voice** whenever possible.

Pro tip: use [Hemingway editor](#).

- Be **concise** and **direct**. Don't use unnecessary words.

For example, replace "*in order to*" with "*to*" and "*make an assessment*" with "*assess*".

- Use **technical terms** and **abbreviations minimally**. When you do, explain them.

Does an undergraduate physics student know what an *antibaryon* is? Do they know that *IPPOG* is *the International Particle Physics Outreach Group*, without googling it? You have to keep those things in mind while writing your article.

- Try to use **no equations**. If you really need them, use up to 5.

You should also explain the equations properly, as most of your readers won't be experts on the topic you're writing about.

4. Citations

- Use **Vancouver style** for citations, as explained in [this guide](#). If you are providing a link, make sure it's a public and reliable source.

One research (1) indicated that the number of duplicate papers being published was increasing.

References

(1) Errami M, Garner H. A tale of two citations. *Nature*. 2008;451(7177): 397–399. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1038/451397a>.

- Properly **cite figures and other content** borrowed from other sources.

Please provide the citation details when submitting your article. You should also clearly note what's your original content.

- Provide **sources for the claims** you make, especially if they may be controversial.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't write about a controversial topic. But if you do, make sure all controversial claims are well-referenced.

- Distinguish clearly between **your original ideas** and **ideas from other sources**.

If you adopt ideas from other sources, please paraphrase and summarize them in your own words and provide the appropriate citations as well.

- Submissions found to be plagiarized and/or have copyright infringements will be rejected and the authors might be subsequently banned from publishing in jIAPS.

Credits

Created by **jIAPS 2022 Staff**.

Inspired by and partially based on "[A jIAPS guide to writing a great scientific article: 17 golden rules](#)" by Hannah Dalglish, jIAPS 2019 Editor-in-Chief.