

### **Guidelines for Materials and Methods sections**

- written in past tense, and assume that the reader assumes that the experiments were performed sequentially (don't say then, then, then).
- When you cite another author's method, be sure to state what modifications were made.
- Use a logical order when describing methods. This is not necessarily chronological order.
- Related methods can be described together.
- Use of subheadings is often helpful.
- You can combine materials and methods.
- For field studies, include time and date of study. State how you sampled, e.g. protocol for randomization, or if you couldn't, why?
- For ecological studies, define the study site with detailed GPS coordinates and a map.

### **Guidelines for Materials**

- Identify and define materials used. State genus species used in italics with Genus capitalized like *Homo undergraduensis*, strain and stock centres where obtained. For cell cultures, where the cells came from, what do they represent, e.g. JURKAT cells are wild-type t-leukemia cells. Include passage number, if known.
- For animal care, include how the organisms were fed, housed, cared for, also report your approving body, e.g. animal care permit number, and approval.
- Explain any crosses that you made and how it was done.
- For wild-collected animals or plants, say their geographical origin and describes permits.
- For all reagents, state the manufacturer and catalog number.
- For antibodies and plasmids, report the source, and naming convention.
- If shelf life is a consideration, report that.
- For nucleic acid or protein sequences, include as an appendix.
  
- For all experiments, state how many replicates and how many samples were used.

### **Describe the analytical techniques used**

- Describe parameters and configurations for microscopes, gels, etc.
- If necessary, state how equipment was calibrated.
- Include how you addressed the assumptions of the analysis, if any.
- What program was used, what version of that program
- For image analysis, changing brightness or contrast on all panels of a figure equally is OK but don't add or remove information.
- Always state what statistical test was used (not just "it was significant")