

## **Methods (Experimental)**

Write for an expert audience.  
(not for a lab instructor)

Describe the materials, instruments, and  
procedures used in the study.  
(how the study was conducted)

## **Move Structure**

(varies from journal to journal)

Common structure shown in Figure 3.1, p. 62

- Materials
- Procedures/instrumentation
- Numerical procedures

Practice Exercise 3.5, p.65

## **Format Issues**

1. Capitalization (Table 3.1, p. 74)
2. Abbreviations (Table 3.2 pp. 76-77)
3. Complete Sentences

## **Move 1: Materials**

Practice Exercise 3.12, p.78

(look at Excerpts 3A, p. 60 and 3B-3J, pp. 67-71, and at Incorrect/Correct statements, p. 75)

**Chemicals.** Boric acid and methanol were supplied by Riedel-de Haen (Seelze, Germany). All peptides were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). 4-Amino-1-naphthalenesulfonic acid (ANSA) was obtained from Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany).  $\text{NaNO}_3$  and  $\text{CuBr}$  (98%) were from Acros (Geel, Belgium).  $\text{HBr}$  (48%) was from Fluka (Buchs, Switzerland).

- complete sentences
- vendor location
- capitalization
- abbreviations
- purity
- “used as received”

## **Move 2a: Procedures**

Not every detail included (Table 3.3, p. 82).

Routine procedures usually left out.

Only include a procedure to draw attention to the fact (i.e., something beyond the routine).

Past tense and passive voice (Examples, p. 83).  
(see also Table 3.4, p.100 and Figure 3.3, p. 99)

## **Move 2b: Instruments**

Either custom-built or commercially available.

Describe each instrument and its operational parameters (operating conditions).

1. Custom-built, new (original publication): very detailed, often with a diagram. (pp. 92-93)
2. Custom-built, modified: cite the original publication, only give details of the modifications and operating conditions.
3. Commercial: standard instrument in common use, no diagram or reference needed, only give operating conditions.