

Top 10 Tips on Creating Scientific Images for Your Journal Manuscript

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In the process of academic research, the data obtained by researchers can only mean something when it gets published. Scientific images or figures are very useful to convey the research findings in a concise and visual manner. The process of creating an image or figure for a manuscript is often a very time-consuming step; for younger researchers, this can be very daunting. Because every academic journal has its own requirements, researchers need to abide by the same and follow them exactly.

In this infographic, we present some handy tips for you to refer to while creating images for your journal manuscript.

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TIPS ON CREATING IMAGES FOR YOUR MANUSCRIPT

- 1 Identify and follow each and every journal guideline to avoid early/automatic journal rejection
- 2 Create customized and easy-to-understand images/diagrams keeping the target audiences' needs in mind
- 3 Use software programs such as Adobe Illustrator, ImageJ, ImageMagick, GIMP, Inkscape, etc. to create high-quality visuals
- 4 Choose and present the data in the most suitable manner—use schematic diagrams, photographs, graphs, etc.
- 5 Ensure that the details mentioned in the image are in line with the accompanying text
- 6 Print out the images to spot oddities that are often missed during electronic reviews
- 7 Ensure that the image resolution is at least 300 dpi (dots per square inch) and that the image is in the recommended format (.tiff, .png, etc.)
- 8 Avoid unethical image manipulation. Do not selectively erase/alter any visual data
- 9 Make effective use of color, especially to highlight all the significant details (especially in graphs)
- 10 Add appropriate captions to describe the images.

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