

Graphical Abstract Guidelines

Applied Spectroscopy is in the process of implementing graphical abstracts as part of its overall initiative to help its researchers to promote their research. A graphical abstract is meant to be a clear, quick, and concise pictorial representation of research that has been published in *Applied Spectroscopy*. It is meant to support the written abstract that accompanies all papers submitted for review to the journal.

Although the preparation of graphical abstracts is not too dissimilar to *Applied Spectroscopy's* overall figure preparation guidelines for manuscript preparation, please keep the following in mind:

All figures published in *Applied Spectroscopy*, including graphical abstracts, should be of the highest quality and should highlight paper findings. A high-resolution figure can be upsampled as part of the production process. However, low-quality figures cannot be made to fit the parameters and qualities of a high-quality image. As noted at SAGE, our publishing partner's website:

Figures should be minimally processed and should reflect the integrity of the original data in the image. Adjustments to images in brightness, contrast, or color balance should be applied equally to the entire image, provided they do not distort any data in the figure, including the background. Selective adjustments and touch-up tools used on portions of a figure are not appropriate. Images should not be layered or combined into a single image unless it is stated that the figure is a product of time-averaged data. All adjustments to image data should be clearly disclosed in the figure legend. Images may be additionally screened to confirm faithfulness to the original data. Authors should be able to supply raw image data upon request.

Design Parameters

(a) Do not use images subject to copyright clearance for graphical abstracts. Graphical abstracts should feature aspects of the original figures created for the paper it is supporting.

(b) Single panel.

(c) Simplicity is the key to conveying information visually.

(d) Fonts should be in a 12-point sans serif font such as Arial, Gills Sans, Helvetica, or similar.

(e) Labels should be simple. Avoid using too much text as part of the design.

(f) Terms and abbreviations should match overall journal usage. Please consult previous papers at <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/asp> or check with the Editorial Office at applied_spectroscopy@chem.ubc.ca for specific terms. Our Spectroscopic Nomenclature document is a great resource at https://www.s-a-s.org/userfiles/uploads/SpecNomenclature_2016.pdf for usage if you are unsure of *Applied Spectroscopy* standards. Conversely, the Editorial Office will contact you with any needed changes to graphical abstracts or other figures upon acceptance of your submission.

(g) Graphical abstracts, as with all figures in *Applied Spectroscopy*, are only accepted in the following formats, JPG, TIF, or EPS. The journal does not accept Word or PowerPoint figure files.

(h) High resolution is the key to high-quality figures. As noted on SAGE, our publishing partner's website, "Raster-based files (i.e., with .tif or .jpg extension) require a resolution of at least 300 dpi (dots per inch). Line art should be supplied with a minimum resolution of 800 dpi."

(i) All artwork in *Applied Spectroscopy*, including graphical abstracts, should measure at least 8.8 cm (one column wide). Larger images requiring greater detail or figures containing multiple panels may be printed at up to 18 cm wide. Axis labels, symbols, and line widths should be clearly visible at this size. Letters and numbers, for example, should be no less than 1.5 mm high, and symbols should be no less than 1.0 mm high.

For further information about information design, please consult the work of Edward Tufte (<https://www.edwardtufte.com/tufte/>) or the blog of Dr. Anna Clemens (<https://www.annaclemens.com/blog/make-graphical-abstract-paper>).