Information for Authors
(Revised January 2018)

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Journal Scope

The Journal of Physical Chemistry (JPC) Letters is devoted to reporting new and original experimental and theoretical basic research of interest to physical chemists, biophysical chemists, chemical physicists, physicists, material scientists, and engineers. Manuscripts that are essentially reporting data, applications of data, performance evaluations of devices, or reviews of the literature are, in general, not suitable for publication in JPC Letters. An important criterion for acceptance is that the paper reports a significant scientific advance and/or physical insight such that rapid publication is essential.

JPC Letters publishes work across all areas while maintaining the highest quality. The journal editors strive to publish high-impact work that meets a strict standard of urgency.

Subject Categories
1. Clusters, Radicals, and Ions; Environmental Chemistry
2. Spectroscopy and Photochemistry; General Theory
3. Biophysical Chemistry, Biomolecules, and Biomaterials; Surfactants and Membranes
4. Chemical and Dynamical Processes in Solution; Polymers, Glasses, and Soft Matter
5. Energy Conversion and Storage; Plasmonics and Optoelectronics
6. Surfaces, Interfaces, and Catalysis; Physical Properties of Nanomaterials and Materials

Journal Policy Statements

Guidelines for Reproducibility of Results

The general rule is that computational and experimental parameters need to be either publicly available or included with the paper so that work can be reproduced by others. See Reproducibility of Results below for further details.

Guidelines for Theory Papers

To be appropriate for publication in JPC Letters, theory papers must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

1. provide a significant new physical insight into an experimentally relevant system or process
2. present a new theoretical or computational methodology of general interest

Prior/Redundant Publication Policy

JPC Letters authors are allowed to deposit an initial draft of their manuscript in a preprint service such as ChemRxiv, arXiv, bioRxiv, or the applicable repository for their discipline prior to submission. Please note any use of a preprint server in the cover letter and, as appropriate, state how the manuscript has been adjusted/updated between deposition and submission. The use of a preprint service will not bias reviewing/acceptance of the paper in JPC Letters. Upon publication, authors are advised to add a link from the preprint to the published paper via the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Redundant publication, such as the use of a repository for published versions of papers, is subject to the Journal Publication Agreement (described elsewhere in this document) and generally requires copyright permission.

Manuscript Types

Letters are short articles that report results whose immediate availability to the scientific community is deemed important. Letters are limited to 2500 words or the equivalent (8–10 double-spaced typewritten pages of text, 3–4 figures, and 1–2 schemes/illustrations). A brief abstract of no more than 150 words should be included; instructions for preparing an appropriate abstract may be found below. Special effort will be made to expedite the reviewing and the publication of JPC Letters submissions. Thus, authors should ensure that manuscripts are in final, error-free form when submitted. Letters must contain a Table of Contents (TOC)/Abstract graphic as part of the manuscript.

Perspectives (by invitation only) are brief, peer-reviewed reports (4–6 journal pages) highlighting a specific topic of interest to physical chemists and chemical physicists. Perspectives must be submitted using the link placed on the author’s ACS Paragon Plus homepage. If you have difficulty locating the link, please contact the editorial office for assistance. These reports are not intended to be a comprehensive look at the field but rather to place a particular research finding into broader context. Perspectives should include a brief abstract (150 words max), approximately 50 references, and a TOC graphic. Quotes will be selected to highlight key topics in the Perspective. Authors can submit possible quotes, but these must be unique to the current work being reported and not from previously cited work. The authors of Perspectives are encouraged to also submit a video (3–5 min clip) highlighting the theme of their Perspective. See Appendix C for instructions.
Guest Commentaries (by invitation only) are editorial content that present scientific discussions of immediate interest to the broad readership. The commentary is written by an expert to provide an overview of an emerging research topic.

Viewpoints (by invitation only) are short editorial matter that comment on a specific research topic, provide educational insight into a research problem, or express views on a popular topic.

Spotlights are accessible, plain-language summaries of select articles in each issue. With fully open access, Spotlights are meant to broaden the readership of the journal and to increase recognition of the fine work that our authors are doing. Read more about Spotlights at http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1021/acs.jpclett.6b01704.

Additions and Corrections are authors’ corrections to published manuscripts and are limited to the length required to correct the errors. Additions and Corrections may be used to address important issues or correct errors and omissions of consequence that arise after the publication of an article. Additions and Corrections may be requested by the author(s) or initiated by the editor after discussions with the corresponding author. Readers who detect errors of consequence in the work of others should contact the corresponding author of that work. All Additions and Corrections are subject to approval by the editor, and minor corrections and additions will not be published. Additions and Corrections from authors should be submitted via ACS Paragon Plus by the corresponding author for publication in the “Addition/Correction” section of the Journal. The corresponding author should obtain approval from all of the article coauthors prior to submitting an Addition and Correction or provide evidence that such approval has been solicited. The Addition and Correction should include the original article title and author list, citation including DOI, and details of the correction. For proper formatting, see examples in a recent issue of the Journal.

Retractions. Articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons. Articles that contain seriously flawed or erroneous data such that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon may be retracted in order to correct the scientific record. Retractions may be requested by the article author(s) or by the journal editor(s) but are ultimately published at the discretion of the editor. When an article is retracted, a notice of Retraction will be published containing information about the original article title and author list and the reason for the Retraction. Retracted articles will be accompanied by the related Retraction notice and will be marked as “Retracted.” The originally published article will remain online except in extraordinary circumstances (e.g., where removal is deemed legally necessary or if the availability of the published content poses public health risks). The American Chemical Society follows guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) when considering retractions; for details see http://publicationethics.org/.

Expressions of Concern. The American Chemical Society (ACS) follows guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) when considering expressions of concern; for more information see: http://publicationethics.org/. In accordance with COPE guidelines, expressions of concern may be issued if:

- there is inconclusive evidence of research or publication misconduct by the authors;
- there is evidence that the findings are unreliable but the authors’ institution will not investigate the case;
- an investigation into alleged misconduct related to the publication either has not been, or would not be, fair and impartial or conclusive;
- an investigation is underway but a judgment will not be available for a considerable time.

Expressions of concern are published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. Upon completion of any related investigation, and when a final determination is made about the outcome of the article, the expression of concern may be replaced with a retraction notice or correction.
**Manuscript Preparation**

**Manuscript Format**

Manuscripts must be prepared using accepted word-processing software. All pages must be numbered consecutively starting with the title page and including tables and figures. A standard font, in a size of 12 points or greater, must be used. Authors are encouraged to use a [Document Template](#) when preparing their manuscript. The various sections of the manuscript should be **assembled in the order listed below without section headers**, with the exception of a header for the Experimental Section and/or Computational Methods, which should be included at the end of the main text of the manuscript.

An Editorial with useful advice on constructing an effective scientific paper can be found at DOI [10.1021/jz4006916](https://doi.org/10.1021/jz4006916).


**Section Order**

- Title, Author Names, Affiliations, and Corresponding Author's e-mail address
  Second Page: Abstract and Table of Contents image (in this order)
- Introduction
- Results and Discussion, including Figures, Figure Captions, and Tables
- Experimental Methods
- Acknowledgments
- Supporting Information paragraph (if applicable)
- References

**Title**

The title should be specific, informative and concise and should accurately reflect the scientific content. Avoid using common phrases such as “investigation,” “study,” “demonstration,” or “performance evaluation,” uncommon acronyms, and words such as “first,” “novel,” “facile,” and “one-pot” in the title and abstract. The title, author list, and institutional affiliations should be included on the first page.

**Authorship**

Be consistent in authorship designation on the manuscript and on all correspondence. Authors’ names should be given as completely as possible: first names, middle initials, and surnames. Give the complete mailing addresses of the institutions where the work was conducted and identify the affiliation of each author. If the current address of an author is different, include it in a footnote on the title page. The corresponding author(s) to whom inquiries about the paper should be addressed must be marked with an asterisk; provide the complete mailing address and e-mail address of this correspondent(s). Note: More than one author may be designated as a co-corresponding author in the published paper; however, only one author may be designated as the corresponding author while the manuscript is under review and revision in ACS Paragon Plus.

**Institution Identification**

Many funders and institutions require that institutional affiliations are identified for all authors listed in the work submitted. ACS facilitates this requirement by collecting institution information during manuscript submission under Step 2: Authors and Affiliations in ACS Paragon Plus.

**Abstract**

The abstract should be a clear, concise, one-paragraph summary (100–150 words) that appeals to the general readership of physical chemistry/chemical physics. The abstract should be
informative rather than descriptive, giving scope, purpose, and significant results/conclusions. Reference citations should be avoided.

Abbreviations and acronyms should be defined upon first usage. Authors’ abstracts are used directly for Chemical Abstracts. Follow the recommended format when preparing the abstract. Representative abstracts in the recommended format from JPC Letters are shown in Appendix A.

Table of Contents (TOC) Graphic
A TOC graphic is required and will be published in the online Table of Contents and next to the abstract. The illustration should capture the readers’ attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, give the readers a quick visual impression of the essence of the paper without providing specific results. (See Appendix B for examples of good TOC graphics.) The graphic for the TOC should not be a duplicate of a graphic already used in the manuscript and should be in the form of a color scheme or image, structure, photograph, or reaction scheme. Color graphics are highly encouraged, with text kept to a minimum. The graphic must be submitted in the actual size to be used for the TOC, fitting in an area 2 in. high by 2 in. wide (5 cm × 5 cm). The type size of labels and other symbols within the graphic must be legible when the graphic is viewed at actual size. Tables, spectra, unprofessional images (cartoon characters, smiley faces, etc.), and copyrighted material without prior written permission are not acceptable. The TOC graphic should be submitted in the manuscript file on the same page as the abstract.

Main Text (without section headers)
Limit the introductory section to one to two paragraphs (without headings). Discuss relationships of the study to previously published work, but do not reiterate or attempt to provide a complete literature survey. The purpose or reason for the research being reported and its significance, originality, or contribution to new knowledge in the field should be clearly and concisely stated. Highlight the physical chemistry aspects of the work by citing appropriate work that would appeal to the Journal’s general readership. Do not include or summarize current findings in this section.

The author should discuss the significance of observations, measurements, or computations and should also point out how they contribute to the scientific objectives indicated in the introductory portion of the paper.

Complicated chemical equations, schemes, and structures should be supplied as graphic images, ready for publication. Figures, schemes, and charts, along with their captions, should be placed in the text where they are first mentioned and numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. Mathematical expressions and chemical formulas with uncommon symbols and letters should be clearly identified. Capital, lowercase, and Greek letters should be easily discernible or identified if ambiguity might result. Complicated superscripts and subscripts should be avoided.


Tables
Tables should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. Each table must have a brief title that describes its contents. The title should be understandable without reference to the text. Details should be put in footnotes, not in the title. Tables should be used when the data cannot be presented clearly as narrative, when many numbers must be presented, or when more meaningful interrelationships can be conveyed by the tabular format. Tables should supplement, not duplicate, information presented in the text and figures. Tables should be simple and concise and should be included in the text.

Column headings should be lowercase, except for symbols and proper names. Define nonstandard abbreviations in footnotes. Footnotes in tables should be given letter designations and be cited in the table by italic superscript letters. The sequence of letters should proceed by row rather than by
column. If a reference is cited both in the text and in a table, a lettered footnote that refers to the numbered reference in the text should be inserted in the table.

In setting up tables, authors should keep in mind the area of the Journal’s page (7 in. × 8.7 in. or 17.8 cm × 22.1 cm) and the column width (3.4 in. or 8.5 cm) and should make tables conform to the limitations of these dimensions.

**Figures**

All figures must be mentioned in the text in consecutive order and must be numbered with Arabic numerals. If symbols are used, it is preferable to place a key in the artwork itself, not in the caption. Ensure that any symbols and abbreviations used in the text agree with those in the figures. See more detailed information on submission of graphics under Artwork below. Figures and figure captions must be placed in the text where they are first mentioned.

The *JPC Letters* Editorial “Graphical Excellence” also provides tips for creating effective graphics and may be found at DOI 10.1021/jz500997e.

**Figure Captions**

A caption giving the figure number and a brief description, preferably only one or two sentences, must be included for each figure.

**Schemes**

Sequences of reactions are called schemes. Schemes should have titles describing their contents and footnotes, if needed, for further detail. Schemes should be numbered with Arabic numerals in consecutive order.

**Charts**

Groups of structures that do not show reactions are called charts and should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. Charts should have titles describing their contents and footnotes, if needed, for further detail.

**Conclusions**

Concluding remarks, principle findings, and future scope of the work should be summarized in the last paragraph of the results and discussion.

**Experimental Methods**

*General Information.* Provide a brief description of the experimental methodology in the manuscript. Detailed procedures can be provided in the Supporting Information, as needed.

*Hazards.* Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the experimental details section of the article.

**Acknowledgments**

Acknowledgments of financial assistance for the conduct of research, citations of theses, or indications of presentation at a research meeting should be brief and placed in this section.

**Supporting Information for Publication**

If the manuscript is accompanied by any supporting information files for publication, a brief description of each file is required. The paragraph and descriptions should be placed at the end of the manuscript before the list of references. The appropriate format is as follows:

**Supporting Information.** Brief descriptions in nonsentence format listing the contents of the files supplied as Supporting Information.

Extensive tables, graphs, spectra, calculations, detailed experimental methodology, and other material beyond a modest content in the published paper may be submitted as Supporting
Information for Publication. SI is uploaded as a separate file (file designation "Supporting Information for Publication") at the time the manuscript is submitted. SI will be made available free of charge online and can be accessed separately by readers. The manuscript title and authors’ names and affiliations should be provided on the first page of SI. All pages should be numbered consecutively starting with page S1. The list of supported file types for SI can be found at [http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/software.html](http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/software.html). Zip compression may be used on large files prepared in the acceptable formats to speed transfer time. Files prepared in any other software must be provided in .pdf format. If the SI is written in Microsoft Word, please remove all “tracked changes” from the SI and turn off the “Track Changes” feature before uploading into ACS Paragon Plus. Please note: The “Supporting Information for Publication” file is published as-is. Proof it carefully.

**Supporting Information for Review Only**

Include copies of references that are unpublished or in press. "Supporting Information for Review Only" files are available only to the editors and the reviewers.

**Web-Enhanced Objects**

The Journal encourages the submission of Web-enhanced objects (WEOs) for the presentation of graphical results that go beyond conventional publication capabilities, including 3D rotatable figures, animations, spectra, video, and sound. Links to WEOs will appear in the HTML version of the paper. Files suitable for this form of publication should be viewable with commonly available Internet plug-ins (e.g., Chime) or helper applications (Rasmol, Mercury, etc.). Authors should submit WEOs via ACS Paragon Plus as part of their submissions and clearly indicate to the editor that the material is WEO material. Descriptions of WEOs should be noted in the appropriate places within the graphic caption or text of the paper, noting the type of file and format. Example: “A 3D rotatable image in xyz format is available.” For more information, including acceptable software for WEOs, go to [http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/weo.html](http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/weo.html).

**References**

References to the literature should be numbered in one consecutive series by order of appearance in the text, with the text citations presented as unparenthesized superscript Arabic numerals.

Authors should consult [The ACS Style Guide](http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/styleguide.html) for the appropriate style to use in citations of journal papers, books, and other publications. References with more than 10 authors must list the first 10 authors, followed by “et al.” References will be linked to various electronic sources (e.g., the corresponding abstract from Chemical Abstracts Service, full text from other American Chemical Society journals, etc.); therefore, the accuracy of references is critical. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references.

Unnecessarily long lists of references, including excessive self-citation, are to be avoided; however, authors must provide references to all relevant publications in which portions of the present work have appeared. Citation of recent papers published in physical chemistry and chemical physics journals that highlight the significance of the work to the general readership is encouraged.

URLs are not preferred references because website content can be modified and, consequently, the reference information may lack permanence. For additional recommendations, see DOI [10.1021/jz500430j](https://doi.org/10.1021/jz500430j).

**Journal references** should contain author names, article title (written in Title Case), abbreviated journal title, year, volume, and pages (first–last), e.g.,

For work published online (JAMS, ASAP) and work submitted for publication (e.g., submitted or in press), the DOI should be furnished in addition to the standard bibliographic information. DOI is an accepted form of citation before an article appears in an issue.


Book references should contain author names, title (Title Case), publisher, city, and year, e.g.,


In literature references, journal abbreviations should be those used by Chemical Abstracts Service [see Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI) 1907–2004]. For references to JPC A/B/C, part A, B, or C must be specified for papers published in 1997 forward.

Additional data and peripheral discussion should be placed in the Supporting Information (SI) rather than in references. Supplementary references may be placed in SI; however, any reference that is used in the SI only should not be cited in the paper. Submitted papers should not depend on unpublished material, and excessive reference to material in press or reports not readily found in research libraries is discouraged. If pertinent references are in press or unpublished for any reason, authors should upload copies of the references as Supporting Information for Review Only to enable reviewers to evaluate the manuscript. Papers accepted for publication are cited as “in press”; the journal abbreviation should be provided, and the DOI should be given if the paper is published online.

Unpublished references should not be included in the final reference list. Place “(unpublished results)” in the manuscript text immediately after the information. (This is required because readers will not have access to unpublished references.)

Funding Sources
Authors are required to report all funding sources and grant/award numbers relevant to this manuscript. Enter all sources of funding for all authors relevant to this manuscript both in the Open Funder Registry tool in ACS Paragon Plus and in the manuscript to meet this requirement. See http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/funder_options.html for complete instructions.

Math Style
Authors including math, display or in-text, in their manuscripts are encouraged to consult the ACS Guidelines for Presenting Mathematical Information. This style sheet provides brief discussion of formatting related to the presentation of mathematical formulas, complete with examples of ACS style and layout. This document was developed to help authors anticipate how mathematical expressions will be formatted in the published version of the paper.

Preparing and Submitting Manuscripts Using TeX/LaTeX
Authors who submit manuscripts composed in TeX/LaTeX should submit a PDF of the manuscript along with the native TeX/LaTeX manuscript package as a ZIP archive. Use of the freely available achemso style package to help prepare your submission is strongly encouraged. The achemso package provides the official macros (achemso.cls) and BibTeX styles (achemso.bst and biochem.bst) for submission to ACS journals. The package and instructions are available from CTAN, the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network. For complete information on submitting TeX/LaTeX files, see Preparing and Submitting Manuscripts Using TeX/LaTeX.

ORCID
Authors submitting manuscript revisions are required to provide their own personal, validated ORCID iD before completing the submission, if an ORCID iD is not already associated with their ACS Paragon Plus user profiles. This iD may be provided during original manuscript submission or
when submitting the manuscript revision. All authors are strongly encouraged to register for an ORCID iD, a unique researcher identifier. The ORCID iD will be displayed in the published article for any author on a manuscript who has a validated ORCID iD associated with ACS when the manuscript is accepted.

With an ORCID iD, you can create a profile of your research activities to distinguish yourself from other researchers with similar names and make it easier for your colleagues to find your publications. If you do not yet have an ORCID iD, or wish to associate your existing ORCID iD with your ACS Paragon Plus account, you may do so by following the ORCID-related links in the Email/Name section of your ACS Paragon Plus account. Learn more at http://www.orcid.org.

Data Management and Reporting of Raw Data

Authors are encouraged to report all data that are either necessary for reproduction of results (refer to the section on Reproducibility of Results) or reported in the manuscript’s figures, charts, and tables as Supporting Information (SI). The current limit on the manuscript submission site is ~250 MB. Per ACS policy, the SI is immediately publicly available free of charge online upon publication, regardless of whether the accompanying article is open access. We note that the Journal Publishing Agreement, which is available online, provides for a nonexclusive copyright held jointly between the ACS and the authors.

Artwork

General Considerations

Figures and tables that will appear in the published article are to be inserted directly in the main body of the manuscript and not included in the Supporting Information. Authors should review the Acceptable Software for graphic formats and guidelines for Preparing Manuscript Graphics. All graphics must be created in digital format. In general, graphics should be copied from the graphics program window and pasted directly into the manuscript. The author should make sure that the graphic is at the appropriate resolution (see below) before copying and pasting. The graphics should be resized in the graphics program and then pasted into the manuscript. The author should not resize graphics after they are pasted into Word. This instruction is true regardless of the graphic format (cds, tif, eps, pdf, etc.).

Quality

The quality of the graphics in the journal depends on the quality of the files provided by the author. Figures cannot be modified or enhanced by the journal production staff. Images produced from continuous-tone graphics such as photographs should have high contrast.

Resolution

Digital graphics pasted into manuscripts should have the following minimum resolutions:

- Black and white line art: 1200 dpi
- Grayscale art: 600 dpi
- Color art: 300 dpi
Size

Graphics must fit a single- or double-column format on the journal page.

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For best results, **submit graphics in the actual size at which they should appear in the PDF version of the paper.** Original graphics that do not need to be reduced to fit a single or double column will yield the best quality. Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points in the final published format. Helvetica or Arial fonts work well for lettering. The text should be legible when the graphic is viewed full-size. Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point. Lettering and lines should be of uniform density and the lines unbroken. If the submitted artwork must be reduced, larger lettering and thicker lines should be used so that, when reduced, the artwork meets the above-mentioned criteria.

Color

The use of color to enhance the clarity of complex structures, figures, spectra, schemes, and so forth is highly encouraged. Color graphics will be published at no cost to the author. Graphics intended to appear in black and white or grayscale should not be submitted in color.

Chemical Structures

Structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw. Authors using the current versions of ChemDraw will find the necessary parameters incorporated into this program ("ACS Document 1996"). Authors using other drawing packages should set the program parameters to match the above values as closely as possible.

Cover Art

Cover art images are selected from Perspectives. Because of the rapid nature of publication of Letters, it is not possible to coordinate cover art with Letter submissions. Editors will invite Perspectives authors to submit their artwork for consideration as cover art and will provide detailed instructions at that time.

Multimedia

Multimedia is a creative way of further disseminating your work, gaining international exposure, and communicating with the physical chemistry community at large.

ACS LiveSlides

ACS LiveSlides are slide presentations created by the authors about their published research and include the author’s own voice describing the research as the slides automatically advance. (An example presentation can be seen at [https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpclett.5b02123.ls01](https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpclett.5b02123.ls01). The collection of ACS LiveSlides and Supporting Information can be found at [http://acs.figshare.com/JPCL](http://acs.figshare.com/JPCL). These videos can also be viewed on JPC’s Facebook account ([http://www.facebook.com/JournalofPhysicalChemistry](http://www.facebook.com/JournalofPhysicalChemistry)).
These presentations, which can be played on a number of web-based platforms and mobile devices, provide readers with the opportunity to quickly capture the essence of a research project through the vision of the authors. Each ACS LiveSlides presentation is linked directly to the full text of the respective article. The preparation of an ACS LiveSlides presentation requires authors to submit up to eight PowerPoint slides and an MP3 audio file. Invitations containing a link to the submission site, where you can find the templates and additional instructions, are sent to authors of peer-reviewed articles upon acceptance of their manuscripts for publication.

**Perspective Videos**

Perspectives provide authors the opportunity to communicate their involvement in a particular research theme and discuss issues related to an emerging topic. Perspective videos provide increased visibility for the Perspective and can be used as educational tools and for outreach activities (e.g., NSF grants). Perspective authors are invited to submit a short, 3–5 minute video highlighting the theme of their Perspective. (See Appendix C for instructions.) These videos can be viewed on the JPC Letters website (http://pubs.acs.org/page/jpclcd/video/perspectives.html), on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/JournalofPhysicalChemistry), and on the ACS channel of YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/user/AmerChemSoc#p/c/DEE0898E6A1CE852).

**Submission of Manuscripts**

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically via the ACS Paragon Plus website (http://acsparagonplus.acs.org). Platforms, word processing packages, and instructions for submitting TeX/LaTeX are available via the Submission and Review page of the journal website. Authors whose manuscripts are published in the journal will be expected to review manuscripts submitted by other researchers from time to time. Due to security features, only editors and assigned reviewers will be able to access the manuscript once it is submitted.

**Cover Letter**

All manuscripts must be accompanied by a cover letter that contains clear and precise information about the submission and highlights the significance of the work. Please use official letterhead of the author's affiliation that lists the mailing address and e-mail address. The cover letter must include all of the following points:

- Manuscript title and authors, including the full names, titles, and positions of ALL authors (undergraduate or graduate student, post-doc, professor, etc.).
- All authors must have accounts in ACS Paragon Plus. The corresponding author must be a Senior Author (professor, research associate, or similar), not a student. Please list the corresponding author’s name, address, telephone number, and current institutional e-mail address.
- Designation of the journal’s subject category that best fits the manuscript (see the list under Journal Scope in these instructions). Note that the editors reserve the right to reassign manuscripts to different journal categories. The journal’s subject category designated in the cover letter must match the entry given in ACS Paragon Plus.
- Explanation of the manuscript’s significance, including its originality and its contribution to new knowledge in the field.
- List at least three recommended reviewers for the manuscript, and provide a short description of their relevance to the peer review of the submitted manuscript. Include the institution and professional e-mail address for each suggested reviewer. The editor may also use reviewers of their own choice.
- Submission history, if previously submitted to another ACS journal. Provide the previous manuscript number and editor’s name. To help expedite the processing of your manuscript, also indicate whether the manuscript was sent for peer review. If the
manuscript has already been reviewed by another ACS journal, include your response to the reviewers’ comments.

- Statement that the manuscript is not being considered by any other journal.

When submitting manuscripts in ACS Paragon Plus, authors should follow these steps:

- List all authors on the manuscript correctly with current and accurate e-mail addresses for each. It is important to provide the correct e-mail addresses for all coauthors because ACS Paragon Plus will notify these authors that the manuscript has been submitted. Author ACS Paragon Plus account information should be current. Avoid creating duplicate accounts for the coauthors. User names should include a complete first and/or middle name. Entering inaccurate or fictitious e-mail addresses may result in the rejection of the manuscript without review.
- Make sure that all coauthors are aware of the submission.
- Upload copies of unpublished work as Supporting Information for Review Only. [Not citing prior work in press by the same authors can constitute an ethical violation.]
- If the manuscript is written in Microsoft Word, please remove all “tracked changes” and comments from the manuscript and turn off the “Track Changes” feature before uploading into ACS Paragon Plus.
- Check that the subject category matches that which was given in the cover letter.
- Select funding sources from the list of agencies included in the FundRef Registry http://www.crossref.org/fundref/.
- Remember to check the pdf proof of your manuscript after its upload in ACS Paragon Plus to make sure that no errors are present.

Ensure that you have completed the requirements by consulting the author checklist. The journal does not allow submission of hardcopy manuscripts.

**Assistance with English Language Editing**

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**Appendix A: Examples of Good Abstracts**
Exploring the Role of PAHs in the Formation of Soot: Pyrene Dimerization

A critical step in currently accepted models for soot formation in combustion is the dimerization of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons as small as pyrene, which is necessary within these models to reproduce correctly the soot particle size distribution. We present experimental measurements on the kinetics of pyrene dimerization performed in low-temperature supersonic flows with photoionization mass spectrometric detection, coupled with theoretical results based on careful consideration of the intermolecular interaction energies, binding energy, equilibrium constant, and intermolecular dynamics. These results demonstrate that the equilibrium of the reaction strongly favors the dissociation of the pyrene dimer at high temperature and that physical dimerization (involving van der Waals forces) of pyrene cannot be a key step in carbon particle formation in hot environments such as flames and circumstellar shells.

In Vitro Characterization of Surface Properties Through Living Cells

The ability to probe an interface beneath a layer of living cells in situ without the need for labeling and fixation has the potential to unlock some of the key questions in cell biology and biointerfacial phenomena. Here, we show that vibrational sum frequency generation (SFG) spectroscopy can be used to detect alkanethiol self-assembled monolayers (SAMs) buried underneath a layer of living erythrocytes (ECs). SFG spectra with and without ECs showed the spectral signatures typical of these SAMs, indicating that the signal was being generated solely by the SAM and was not influenced by the presence of cells. Direct comparison of infrared spectroscopy to SFG measurements of cells adhered on a fibronectin layer showed that the SFG signal emanated solely from this layer. These results have important implications for the characterization of surfaces in biomedical, environmental, and industrial applications.
Appendix B: Examples of Good TOC Graphics

The following are examples of good TOC graphics that appeared in JPC Letters Vol. 1. A good TOC graphic is a scheme or illustration (5 cm x 5 cm) that exemplifies the theme of the paper. Do not include figures from the main text because the TOC will also appear in the paper along with the abstract.

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Example 4
Appendix C: Guidelines for JPC Letters Perspective Video Production

Thanks for your interest in contributing a video on your JPC Letters Perspective. We recommend that the final, edited video be about 3– minutes in length. Some areas to cover in your discussion could include:

1. Introduce yourself and give your position at your institution.
2. What is the motivation behind this work?
3. What are the major findings of your research (in layman’s terms)?
4. What are the new techniques or approaches that you have implemented in your research?
5. What are the major hurdles or challenges that need to be tackled?
6. How is this work likely to impact other disciplines?
7. What has been the impact of JPC on your research and what will be the impact of JPC Letters for the research community?

For examples of how to create your video, please take a look at the JPC Letters Perspective videos on the website [http://pubs.acs.org/page/jpclcd/video/perspectives.html](http://pubs.acs.org/page/jpclcd/video/perspectives.html). We would like to keep the discussion at a level that can be understood by undergraduate chemistry students.

The interviews should be shot using high definition camera equipment and lavalier clip-on mics. It doesn’t have to be professional-level equipment; an inexpensive consumer-level HD camera is fine. For microphones, these lavalier mic models could work:

- Olympus ME-15 Microphone
- Audio-Technica ATR-3350 Lavalier Omnidirectional Condenser Microphone

Here are some other suggestions:
- Place the camera on a tripod.
- If at all possible, don’t use the built-in microphone on the camera; use a clip-on lavalier mic (like the ones listed above).
- Make sure there is plenty of light on the interviewee. A room with a lot of windows or plenty of overhead light should be fine, but make sure the subject’s face is not too dark.
- Check the background around the interviewee because it will be part of your video.
- Don’t leave too much space around the interviewee in the shot. Don’t clip the top of their head in the camera frame, but keep it closely cropped around the subject. Generally, you want the subject’s eyes one-third of the way down from the top of the frame.
- Consider using more than one person in the video. A team of two can offer some change in pace and narration.
- A sample or model in hand can make the video content livelier. Be creative in the way you introduce your video.

Important: **If you shoot the interview in a lab, please wear eye protection!** A lab coat is also recommended.

Also important: We prefer that you **do not** provide files in a Microsoft video format. The ACS video staff can work with virtually any other format.

If your video does not include captions identifying the speakers, please provide that information to ACS so that we can add those title graphics to your video.