

JMBE Tips and Tools Section Review Criteria

Criteria	Acceptable as submitted; no change or simple corrections (1)	Needs modifications or improvements (2)	Fundamental revisions or additions required (3)
Relevance	Tips pertain to topics of general interest in microbiology and biology education. Tips present innovative and engaging ways to improve best practices.	Manuscript largely reviews old information; relationship of tips and tools to teaching and learning needs to be clarified.	No new information is presented. Article is not appropriate for Tips and Tools section of JMBE.
Practicality	Tips are practical and useful; tips can be implemented in a microbiology/biology classroom or laboratory.	Tips are generally good, but need modification before they can be readily used in a classroom.	Tips fall outside the scope of microbiology/biology education.
Materials & Methods	Materials and methods are clearly presented and easy to follow.	Materials and methods need modifications or improvements.	Materials and methods are insufficient or lacking.
Clarity & Organization	Article is clear, well organized, and concise.	Article is clear and well organized, but requires modification, including but not limited to clarification of minor points or length.	Article is unclear, disorganized, and wordy.
Credibility	Tips are credible and verifiable.	Tips have gaps in information but are mostly credible; information is difficult to verify.	Information in manuscript cannot be verified.

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Safety	Activities adhere to laboratory safety guidelines.	Activities are generally safe, but safety guidelines are not consistently followed.	Activities may be risky; safety guidelines are ignored.
Guidelines	Article follows all submission guidelines.	Article follows three or more of the submission guidelines.	Submission guidelines are ignored.