

## Checklist for *Elements* Authors

For EACH thematic article in your issue of *Elements*, please confirm the following items.

*[Refer to the Guest Editor and Author guidelines for more details.](#)*

✓	<b>ARTICLE ITEMS/CONTENT</b>
	Title – short, engaging, catchy
	Author(s) – full name, address, and email included
	Abstract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximum 120 words</li> <li>• this is a summary of the article—not an intro paragraph</li> </ul>
	Keywords – 4–6 words
	Text style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written as a magazine review article, not a scientific journal article.</li> <li>• Does the article present a good introduction to this subject for someone unfamiliar with the topic?</li> <li>• Can it be understood by an upper-level undergraduate student?</li> <li>• Is there a logical “flow” to the article? Does it move smoothly from one paragraph/section to the next?</li> <li>• Is it too technical? Boring? Wordy?</li> </ul>
	Jargon (words used only by a specific group/discipline) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be avoided</li> <li>• If used, check that the words are clearly defined using simple language</li> </ul>
	Figures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-resolution (fonts are smooth, concise lines/arrows, crisp images, etc.)</li> <li>• Eye catching, colorful, informative</li> <li>• Color usage (Can the color blind discern the relevant features? Avoid usage of color as the sole mechanism for conveying information.)</li> </ul>
	Figure Captions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addresses each panel in the figure</li> <li>• Figure &amp; caption can stand alone without associated text</li> </ul>
	References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 30</li> <li>• Confirm that any references in tables/figures are included in reference list</li> </ul>
	Word count (for 6-page article) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of 6100 words (this total includes all the text, abstract, titles, acknowledgments, references, captions, and 200-250 words per figure/table)</li> </ul>
✓	<b>OTHER ASSOCIATED ITEMS</b>
	Biographical sketch and photo provided for each author
	Signed forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">License to publish</a> (if require open access visit <a href="#">Elements website for policy and forms</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Pro forma invoice if contributing to costs your article or order extra copies</a></li> </ul>