

The FAST Journal, peer-reviewed, practitioners' journal with an audience made up of all levels of science educators who provide support for teachers, instructors of teachers, and preservice secondary education students. *The Journal* is published twice a year. We seek manuscripts that are inspirational and provide ideas for enhancing school science teaching and learning. Features are articles written by educators for educators. The editorial staff of *The FAST Journal* would like to thank you for considering *us* as a venue for your ideas. We look forward to your contribution to the profession

Manuscripts should identify a grade-level reference. Our feature articles are teacher-student focused and should provide:

- practical, timely classroom ideas and strategies that appeal to a wide audience and are accessible to the general readership;
- examples of teacher and student interactions that demonstrate that your manuscript is an authentic, classroom-tested activity; these examples might include student work, quotes from students and teachers, evaluation data, or other "snapshots" of classroom experiences;
- suggestions for managing the activity that include examples of what may have gone wrong, unexpected results, and unforeseen challenges. If you are not a classroom teacher, consider partnering with one to field test your activity and capture authentic details;
- all aspects of the learning experience from pre-assessment through summative assessment;
- safety precautions. See the NSTA Safety in the Science Classroom, Laboratory, or Field Studies (www.nsta.org/docs/SafetyInTheScienceClassroomLabAndField.pdf) to assist you;
- support for claims made in the manuscript, including research citations and personal anecdotal evidence

There are several guidelines that need to be followed. If you ignore these guidelines, your manuscript will likely be returned to you.

- Submit the main body of your manuscript as a Word document (.doc) or PDF format. Figures, photos, and other graphics may be embedded in your Word document, but we prefer that these elements be uploaded as separate files during the submission process
- The main body of your manuscript should be no more than 2,000 words. References, captions, sidebars, figures, and other supplementary text are not included in the word count.
- Your manuscript should be double spaced, with one-inch margins, and numbered pages. Use a single 12-point font throughout the manuscript. Avoid extra formatting of any kind.
- A 200-word abstract should accompany your submission.
- References and resources lists should be alphabetized by author and limited to current, readily available items. Cite only the most germane references. Provide a page number for any direct quote.
- Manuscripts must identify how they align with the *Next Generation Science Standards*. The specifics should identify disciplinary core ideas by reference number and Science and Engineering practices by direct reference, including grade band endpoints. Do not include all of the practices; rather, select those that are most germane to the activities identified in your manuscript.

Review Form Rubric

1. Is the manuscript accurate, scientifically and otherwise? Explain any inaccuracies.
2. Is the activity/content grade-level appropriate and is it clear to the reader that the activity/strategy has actually been used in the classroom?
3. Are classroom management tips for grouping, time, equipment, etc., included in the manuscript?
4. Does the manuscript target and clearly outline a particular combination of disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross cutting concepts as identified in the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*? Are correct codes for the associated standard and/or performance expectation from the *NGSS* provided?
5. Does the manuscript explicitly link to any grade level *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts* and/or *Mathematics* listed in the Connection Box of the *NGSS*? If so, is the alignment grade-level appropriate?
6. Is the activity safe at the recommended grade level? Are appropriate safety procedures included? List any missing safety considerations that you feel are necessary for this activity.
7. Is the manuscript thorough? Are the activities, procedures, examples, and other components complete? Do the student directions, questions, and other tasks require higher-order thinking skills that focus on deeper understanding and application of content?
8. Is the manuscript easy to read and logically sequenced; does it flow well from start to finish?
9. Is the activity interesting and new? Is it similar to another activity from a print or online source? Does the manuscript promote a person or commercial product/service?
10. Is the manuscript inclusive with regard to gender, multicultural awareness, and costs? Are differentiation strategies for students with special needs provided?
11. Does the manuscript contain appropriate current research citations, personal experiences, or other evidence to support the strategies it recommends and the claims it makes?
12. Does the manuscript contain effective formative and summative assessments? Are the assessments accessible and unbiased; do they use grade-level appropriate language? Are rubrics, answer keys, and scoring guidelines provided? Do they offer sufficient guidance for interpreting student performance?