# Writing Checklist

## General

**Overall (2 point):**

* Does the article explain the material so somebody with an undergraduate science background can understand (almost) everything?
* Was the article run through spell check/Grammarly to catch obvious grammar or spelling mistakes?

## Top-down

**Methods (2 points):**

* Does the methods section use at least three components of the generic model (Overview-Description-Comparison-Evaluation/Justification)? Does it go beyond “cooking recipe” writing?
* Are transitions between components easy to identify, for example by using appropriate transition words or starting new paragraphs?

## Bottom-up

**Paragraphing (2 points):**

* Does each paragraph contain one overall idea or argument, plus supporting evidence? Not more than one idea per paragraph?
* Does each paragraph have a clear topic sentence at or near the beginning of the paragraph which states the paragraph’s goal/content?

**Other bottom-up skills (optional):**

* Are verb tenses used appropriately, for example to delineate previous from current work?
* When using repetition to link sentences, is the meaning clear (e.g., repeat phrases identically instead of using ambiguous synonyms)?
* Pro-forms:

When using pro-forms, is the meaning clear (e.g., all sentences starting with “This shows”)?

* + Prepositions:

Are prepositions used correctly?

* + Definite versus indefinite article:

Are A/THE/zero used correctly?

Note any passages that you are not certain about, or that you think might be wrong.