Brief Reports

Brief reports provide a concise format for the reporting of technically significant research of interest to the language assessment community. Brief reports may describe practical, action-oriented research which has the potential to be informative for others working on similar problems. Reports may present descriptions of modifications to an assessment or an assessment program; the development of novel instruments, methods, or resources; or brief validation studies of existing tools.

Brief reports will typically be **2,000 to 3,000 words**, including the main text, tables/figures, and references. Reference to background literature should be kept at a **maximum of 15 entries**, as the focus is on the methods, analysis, and results. The internal format of the brief report may vary depending on the content of the report. A 200-word abstract should be typed into the abstract textbox in the *Language Testing* submission system, but the abstract does not count toward the word limit. Reports may be accompanied by supplementary files, although we encourage authors to upload any supplementary material to open science databases and reference these appropriately.

Submissions should be uploaded in our regular submissions system, ScholarOne. When submitting the report, please select Brief Report in the Manuscript Category. Submitted brief reports will first undergo an internal review by the Editorial Office, after which reports approved for external review will be peer reviewed. Publication of brief reports will be subject to the approval of peer reviewers. All final decisions will be made by the editor.

A model of a brief report is available here, but do note that the format of these reports for *Language Testing* may vary according to the needs of particular authors, as described above.

Mechelli, A., Crinion, J. T., Noppeney, U., O'Doherty, J., Ashburner, J., Frackowiak, R. S., & Price, C. J. (2004). Structural plasticity in the bilingual brain. *Nature, 431*, 757. https://doi.org/10.1038/431757a

If you have any questions about the brief reports submission category, please contact our Editorial Office at ltassist@msu.edu.

Guidelines for reviewers

Brief Reports are submissions that go through a double-blind peer review. Peer reviewers of brief reports focus on the on the Method, Results, and the statistical and technical reporting. The key criterion is that the report should be useful for other practitioners in the field. There is no expectation of a strong theoretical contribution; the focus is rather on sharing data outcomes, practices, and knowledge.

Brief reports are 2,000 to 3,000 words, and may include an Introduction, Method (which includes an Analysis section), Results or Findings, and Discussion/Conclusion. However, the internal format of the brief report may vary depending on the content of the report (for example, a report of a pilot study versus a report of a test development project may have different sections necessarily). Both the Introduction and Discussion will be very brief, as a Brief Report focuses on the Method and Results. Reviewers are asked to holistically assess:

1. The practical contribution of the report to the field
2. Whether the clarity and degree of methodological detail is sufficient to understand and (if relevant) replicate the procedures and analysis
3. The soundness and technical quality of the analysis and purported findings
4. Whether the authors' conclusions are justified given the data

Reviewers are asked to render a decision within 2 weeks. The decision will be similar to full manuscripts (reject, major revisions, minor revisions, accept). Only 2 weeks are provided, in comparison to a full manuscript's 4 weeks, because brief reports are intended to have a shorter review process, with each stage of the review and revision process approximately half the length of a full manuscript's stages. Following peer review, there are three possible outcomes: a manuscript will be accepted; the authors will be offered the opportunity to revise within 2 to 4 weeks (depending on the nature of the feedback); or the manuscript will be rejected outright.