Notes on methods section…

Include enough information to replicate the experiment

- Cite manufacturer for supplies / equipment (Company)
- Be **concise and clear** in your description

Use subsections with descriptive titles

- Put in **logical order**, rather than chronological order
- Begin with topic sentence to introduce purpose / goal of each experimental procedure

Use clear and concise full sentences

- NO tables or lists, all information should be provided in **full sentences** and paragraphs
- Write in passive voice and use past tense

Use the most flexible units

- Write **concentrations** (when known) rather than volumes

Eliminate 20.109 specific language and obvious details

- Example “labeled Row A, Row B…”
- Do not include details about tubes and water!
- Assume reader has some biology experience
- Include parts of the protocol that the teaching faculty completed, but do not say “completed by teaching faculty.”

How can you improve this example?

DNA was cut to check insert. Enzymes were used for single and double

digest then run on gel made by adding 1 g of agar to 100 mL of water.

Gel was imaged on a gel box.

How can you improve this example?

What DNA? How much?

Consider more specific language.

What insert?

Which enzymes? From where were the enzymes acquired?

DNA was cut to check insert. Enzymes were used to cut DNA for

Specifically, why was this done?

Redundant

Provide details on how this was done.

Colloquial…use more scientific language. Also, include details.

single and double digests then run on a gel made by adding

What does this mean?

Be mindful of the order of information and of confusing sentence structure.

1 g of agar to 100 mL of water. Gel was imaged on the gel box.

Use the most flexible units / concise description.

What else was needed for imaging?

The?

What would be more informative?

Edited example…

Confirmation digest of pET28a_MAX-6xHis

To confirm that MAX-6xHis was cloned into pET28a expression vector, a digest was completed. Restriction enzymes AbcI and DefI were used to digest W ng of pET28a-MAX-6xHis in single digests (only one enzyme added) and in a double digest (both enzymes added) using X U / uL of each enzyme and Y buffer (NEB). Digests were incubated at 37C for Z hrs. [Include gel electrophoresis details].