

AAAL Briefs: Instructions to authors

What is a AAAL Brief?

It is an explanation of a language-related issue that affects individuals and society.* Examples include legal rights read to suspects who may have limited proficiency in the dominant language of the legal system; the educational labelling of bi/multilingual children that emphasizes only what they are not and cannot do in the majority language of the school. Briefs are written by (an) author(s) with expertise in the language-related issue.

Who is the intended audience?

Anyone who is interested in/affected by the issue that is described. The information should be provided in language that is accessible to a non-specialist readership. To achieve this objective, authors avoid jargon and discipline-specific terminology where possible, and provide explanations for terms/concepts that may be unfamiliar to the intended audience.

What is the format?

The information is provided in the form of answers to a set of **linked questions**. These questions structure the content of the Brief. Unlike some forms of academic writing, there is no introduction, and no repetition/restating of information: the Brief begins with a question, the answer to which leads to the next question and so on. The number of questions will depend on the topic/length of answers, but typically a Brief consists of 3-4 questions.

In addition, there are **no in-text citations or quotations**. Authors are encouraged to include a short list of resources/references at the end of the Brief for readers seeking further information. Formatting should follow the latest edition of the APA Style Manual.

How long should the Brief be?

No longer than one page (~650 words). This includes the title, the linked questions and the answers to those questions.

On a second page authors provide additional resources/references and a short author biography about their expertise and experience related to the issue (maximum 50 words per author). Authors may include mention of their own relevant work in the resources as well as other sources (including publicly available information).

* As stated in AAAL's Mission Statement: <https://www.aal.org/our-mission>