

## Tips for Creating a Good Arctic Answer Brief

### A. Before deciding to produce a Brief:

1. Can you state the topic in a clear, simple question?
2. Would a decision maker (non-scientist) find the question topical, useful, and interesting?
3. Do you have results or information that can provide a satisfying answer to your topic question?
4. Once you have answered 1-3 above, contact an *Arctic Answers* editor (G. Kling, B. Kelly)

### B. Before and during your writing:

1. Read the Author Guidelines and Instructions, and use the templates provided [[Author guidelines](#)]
2. Recognize that each *Brief* has references cited in two forms:
  - a. Up to six (6) key references cited in the text
  - b. A comprehensive list of references in a “Knowledge Pyramid,” with layers of general to detailed references
3. Re-read the Author Guidelines, and check them off as you proceed
4. Copy the style, format, and content of example *Briefs* (e.g., the figures, graphs, etc. – check with an editor if in doubt)

### C. Common mistakes:

1. Writing in technical language not accessible to non-scientists
  - a. Write in plain English with simple words
  - b. Avoid terms like “uncertainty” that have technical meaning different than every day usage
  - c. Use easy to interpret graphs and tables, and state results on a graph or in a caption
2. Ignoring the instructions, and creating the Knowledge Pyramid at the last minute as an afterthought

## Journal Requirements and Timeline

1. We try to return your brief with reviews within 4 weeks of submission
2. The journal expects you to revise your brief within 3 weeks of receiving the reviews
3. The publication takes another 2 weeks or so at the journal and publisher

## Resources for Producing an Arctic Answer Brief:

[Arctic Answers Science Brief Collection](#) published in *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research*

[Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research](#) Homepage and submission site for all article types, including Arctic Answers Science Briefs

[AAAR Author Guidelines](#) include general information and links to specific instructions for Arctic Answers Briefs

[Author guidelines for writing Arctic Answers Science Briefs](#) (detailed PDF instructions)

Arctic Answers Science Briefs require a specific format – please follow the guidelines to save time and effort. Use the templates for the *Brief* and its companion Knowledge Pyramid template, available in the PDF

### Contact an Arctic Answers Editor:

George Kling, University of Michigan, [gwk@umich.edu](mailto:gwk@umich.edu)  
Brendan Kelly, University of Alaska, [bpkelly@uaf.edu](mailto:bpkelly@uaf.edu)