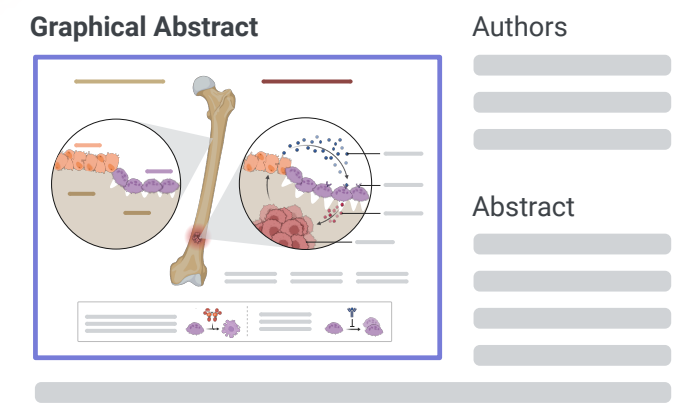


Design an *effective* GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

bioRender Journal
Really cool scientific discovery



What makes a good graphical abstract?

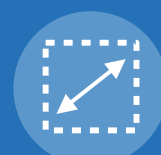
A good graphical abstract give your readers an immediate understanding of the article's main message. Your graphical abstract should be an 'overview' and distinct from figures or diagrams in the rest of the article.

Before you start

Check the journal guidelines and specs.



FONT



DIMENSIONS



COLORS

What to plan ahead:



The main message of your study. Use 1-2 sentences to summarize your research paper. This is the foundation of your graphical abstract.



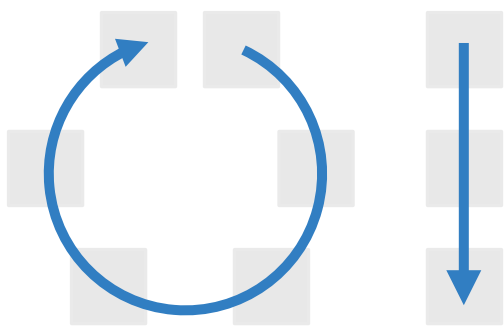
Your layout. Gather examples of other graphical abstracts to determine which layout will work best for yours. *Pro tip:* Browse the BioRender template gallery for inspiration.



Your storyflow. Sketch your ideas on paper. Get your thoughts down and create a rough draft.

Top Design Tips for Graphical Abstracts

1 Layout

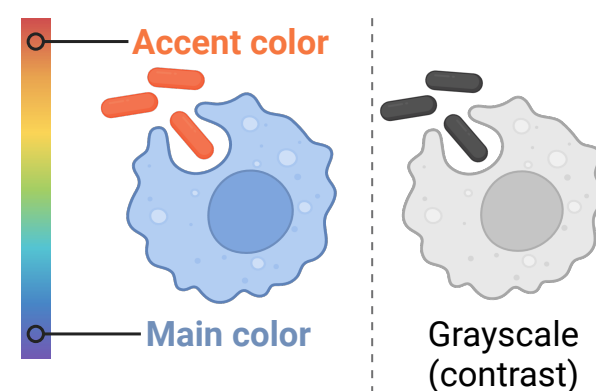


Pick a simple flow

Use a layout that guides the reader through your figure in a continuous step-by-step flow from top left to bottom right.

Bonus tip: Try unidirectional flows for step-wise information and cyclical flows for processes.

2 Color

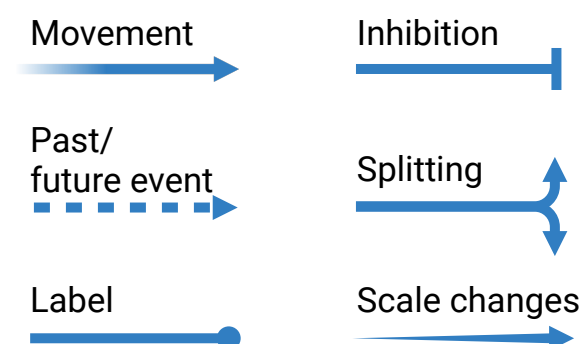


Choose colors strategically

Pick the main color for your figure and an accent color to highlight key elements.

Bonus tip: Check that the colors you pick have good contrast in grayscale so the reader can differentiate all elements in your figure easily.

3 Arrows & labels

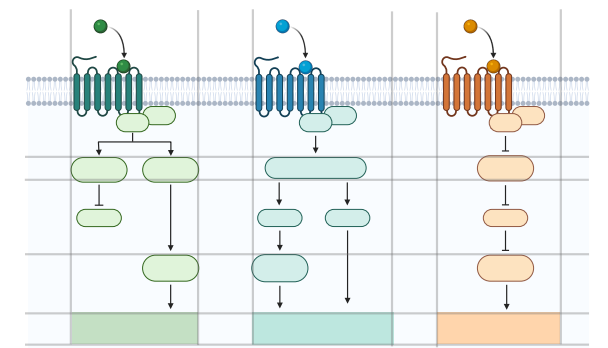


Use arrows & labels efficiently

Place just enough arrows and labels so that the information is easy to grasp for the reader.

Bonus tip: Define a hierarchy of your arrow flows. Think of them like a main highway with multiple side roads.

4 Alignment



Keep alignment consistent

Keep similar elements aligned throughout the figure. This helps with comparing and contrasting.

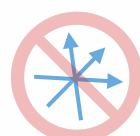
Bonus tip: Use guidelines (vertically and horizontally) for facilitated alignment and padding.



Avoid these:



Low contrast or patterned backgrounds



Overlapping elements, especially arrows



Using too many colors (try to limit to 2-3)



Drop shadows & word art



Unnecessary elements. Minimalism is better than crowdedness