M-section: Checklist of common moves and steps

Main topic: the means used to study or solve the problem, i.e., the inputs, materials, subjects, etc. used or studied and the method or MADT (model, approach, device, design or theory) applied or developed

Main purposes: to describe the means used (informative purpose) and to establish credibility by showing that that it was correctly applied and/or that it was a valid means of dealing with the problem investigated, sometimes to allow for reproducibility or to establish a basis for claiming novelty (persuasive purpose).

M-Move 1: Establish a context for credibility
Purpose: to orient the reader to the means used or developed and/or provide background to ensure that the audience will be able to understand and appreciate its functioning and/or value and/or viability for dealing with the problem investigated

Common orienting steps
- Present an overview of the main ideas of the section/a subsection/of an important new aspect (main section overview)
- Present the main goals of (important aspects of) the means applied or developed (main goals)
- Provide an overview of the main steps/main techniques/main elements (main elements overview)
- Describe any general reasoning/assumptions behind the means used or developed (general reasoning/assumptions)
- Provide help locating information or understanding tables, graphs, illustrations or the organization of the section/a subsection (help reading)

Common background steps:
- Provide general theoretical, practical or methodological background (methodological background)
- Provide background about the specific project/experiment (project background)
- Describe, discuss and/or compare previous and/or alternative means (comparison of means)
- Other steps common in your field
M-Move 2: Establish credibility

**Purpose:** to demonstrate by factual description that the means used or developed were viable and the research was carried out according to the standards of the area/the readers of the *JAS*

**Common steps (often each step in its own subsections or series section):**

- List or describe **inputs used or studied** (e.g., materials, substances, data, subjects, sites, etc.), the ways they were treated, prepared, obtained, selected, etc. (*inputs and materials*)
- Describe the **experimental set-up / instrument(s)** used or developed (*describe set-up*)
- Describe **preparation** steps, procedures, techniques, variables, equipment, etc. applied or developed (*preparation*)
- Describe the **main steps, procedures, techniques, variables**, etc. applied or developed (*main steps*)
- Describe the **validation method for (aspect of) the means used** (*validation means*)
- **Other steps common in your field**

M-Move 3: Strengthen credibility

**Purpose:** to show that the means applied/developed/modified and the inputs used/selected/prepared were particularly good / better than previous ones and/or that (some aspects of) the means used make a methodological contribution beyond being correct, viable and valid and/or that possible methodological problems have been dealt with in interesting or clever ways

**Common steps:**

- Include factual information allowing specialized readers to evaluate non-obvious ways the method / MADT / design was carried out particularly well: for example, with great care, accuracy, precision, forethought, with keen awareness of limitations (*Non-obvious information*) Note: This information is included although it may not be necessary for completeness or for the audience to be able to understand the way the method functions
- **Explain non-obvious reasoning behind** applying a specific aspects of the method or *MADT*, selecting materials/inputs/ experimental set-up // choosing the method over other possible known/commonly used methods (*non-obvious reasoning*)
- Point out that inputs/means were used/prepared with **special care or thoroughness** (*special care*)
- Describe **special advantages** of the inputs or means used or developed (*advantages*)
- Show that a **modification provided useful, necessary or important benefits** (*beneficial modifications*)
- Point out the ways that the means/inputs were particularly suitable for dealing with the problem (*suitable for the problem*)
- Point out specific aspects of **particular interest to (part of ) the intended audience** (*audience appeal*)
- Point to the **viability of the method/MADT in actual or potential applications** (*application*)
- **Other steps common in your field**