

# AMA: Citation and Formatting Guide

Note: These reference guides do not take the place of assignment guidelines



The American Medical Association, or AMA, guidelines are typically used by students in the health professions. AMA is a format whose specific style guidelines are determined by a mixture of AMA style guide rules and the requirements of the AMA publications in which a work is to be published, which means that some aspects of paper formatting may vary depending on how and where your work is being presented or what your professor's guidelines are. However, AMA does have some standards you can apply to any AMA paper, as detailed below.

## Helpful Hints for AMA Formatting

- Your paper should be Times New Roman, in 12 pt. font, double-spaced, and have 1" margins
- Your paper should have a cover page containing the following information, centered and spaced about 1/3 down the page: the title of the essay, the author(s) name(s) and degrees (if above a bachelor's), and the author's institutional affiliation
- Depending on your assignment requirements, your paper may include an abstract. This is a 150 – 300-word summation of the essay, including key terms, abbreviations, and key points
- Your reference page should typically be written in single spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font (Double spaced upon request, depending on assignment guidelines)
- The reference page should have the title "References" centered at the top
- Your references should be listed and labeled numerically, in the order that they appear in your essay (i.e. the first reference to appear in your paper would be "1," the second "2," etc.)
- Rather than using parenthetical-style in-text citations, AMA uses a superscript number (<sup>1, 2, 3...</sup>) to indicate when a source is being cited. These should appear as close to the information being quoted, paraphrased, or summarized as possible. When citing a particular page, cite the page number in parentheses next to the in-text citation: for example.<sup>1(p45)</sup>
- When citing multiple sources as once, list all in-text citations in numerical order, indicating a series of consecutive sources with a hyphen: for example.<sup>1-3, 4, 7-9, 12</sup>
- When using an in-text citation near a punctuation mark, the superscript number appears *outside* of periods and commas and *inside* colons and semicolons.
- When naming the authors of a source *in text*, list the first three authors by surname only, followed by "et al."
- On the reference page, list the first six authors of a source by their surname, followed by their first and (if applicable) middle initial. Place commas between different authors, but not between an author's surname and first and middle initials. Do not use "and" before the final author in a series. If there are more than six authors, provide the names of the first three followed by "et al."
- Use the same rules for formatting authors' names when listing editors ("ed(s)"), translators ("tran(s)"), and editor-translators ("ed-tran(s)"). After the last name in the list, add a comma and the abbreviation for the appropriate role.
- Titles for book chapters and articles typically use sentence capitalization.
- Use the organization responsible for the document if there is no editor or author.
- When you list dates within a reference, you typically use Month Day, Year formatting.
- In AMA, journal names are abbreviated. To check for a journal's abbreviation, go to [pubmed.gov](http://pubmed.gov). Select "NLM Catalog" in the dropdown menu and type the journal name in the search bar. Search and select the journal from the list of options. The journal abbreviation will be listed next to "NLM Title Abbreviation."

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## Citing Sources in AMA

### Book by a Single Author

Reference Number. Author(s). Chapter title. Editor(s)/Translator(s)/Editor-Translator(s). *Book Title*. Edition number if not the first edition. Place of publication: Publisher; Copyright year:Specific Page Numbers.

1. Davis M. Cats are just okay. Kolman C, ed. *The Rise of the House Cat*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed-tran. Fort Myers: Iron Horse Press; 2015:7-33.

### Book by Multiple Authors

Reference Number. Author(s). Chapter title. Editor(s)/Translator(s)/Editor-Translator(s). *Book Title*. Edition number if not the first edition. Place of publication: Publisher; Copyright year:Specific Page Numbers.

2. Compagnucci B, Fischell K, Jensen S, et al. The joys of first time cat ownership. Kolman C, tran. *Cats in American Households*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Fort Myers: Iron Horse Press; 2015:7-33.

### Article from a Print Journal

Reference Number. Author(s). Article Title. *Journal Abbreviation*. Year;volume(issue number):Pages.

3. Ayala A. Cats are not man's best friend. *Psychol Sci*. 2010;3(2):66-78.

### Article from an Online Journal with a DOI number

Reference Number. Author(s). Article Title. *Journal Abbreviation*. Year;volume(issue number):Pages. doi:

4. Compagnucci B, Fischell K, Jensen S, et al. "Cat's are, in fact, man's best friend." *J Feline*. 2013;27(1):100-112. doi: 10.369/k.4442-589h.2012.00036.x.

### Article from an Online Journal with no DOI number

Reference Number. Author(s). Article Title. *Journal Abbreviation*. Year;volume(issue number):Pages. URL. Access date.

5. Davis M. "Why being allergic to cats is a reason to not own them." *Feline Fancy*. 2015;72(3):83-90. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/103/2/f52>. Accessed September 30, 2016.

### Websites with an Author

Reference Number. Author. Title. Name of Website. URL. Published Date. Updated date. Accessed date.

6. Sellers L. Half of all cat owners are multiple cat owners. World Cat Organization. [http://www.wco.int/catownership/topics/multiple\\_cats/corticosteroids/en/](http://www.wco.int/catownership/topics/multiple_cats/corticosteroids/en/). Accessed August 22, 2014.

### Websites without an Author

Reference Number. Name of Organization. Title. Name of Website. URL. Published Date. Updated date. Accessed date

7. The Cat Skeptics. Why "fun" pet cats are just a myth. Cat Skeptics Monthly. [www.catskepticsmonthly.com/why\\_fun\\_cats\\_are\\_myths](http://www.catskepticsmonthly.com/why_fun_cats_are_myths). Accessed January 29, 2016