

# AMA Citation Style for Academic Writing

*Center for Writing Excellence*

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY  
Center for Writing Excellence  
973.655-7442  
cwe@mail.montclair.edu

**Center for Writing Excellence (CWE)**

There is no great writing, only great rewriting. - Justice Brandeis  
Writing is 1% inspiration and 99% elimination. - Louise Brooks

# AMA Style

**AMA** was created by the American Medical Association for the purpose of writing medical-related research.

The most current edition is the **10<sup>th</sup> Edition.**



# General Guidelines

**AMA** provides guidelines for --

- Overall manuscript format
- Style
- References

# General Format

- Double-spaced
- Left-aligned
- 1" Margins
- 12pt Times New Roman
- No set standard for headings, but uses a consistent pattern of organization (all headings are capitalized, bold, flush left).

# Main Sections

- Title page
- Abstract
  - Structured or unstructured
- Main body
  - Introduction, methods, results, discussion
- References

# Title Page

There's no specific guidelines for the title page, but AMA suggests:

- Title
- Authors' name
- Degrees (above bachelors)
- Institutional affiliation
- Email address
- Word count (for main body only, excluding title, abstract, references, tables, and figures)

# Abstract

Abstracts should include the background or objective of the study, design and methods, results, and conclusions.

## Structured

- For reports of original data, systematic reviews, and clinical reviews
- Uses preestablished headings depending on the type of report
- No more than 250 words

## Unstructured

- For manuscripts outside of those mentioned above
- No more than 150 words

## Keywords

- At the end of the abstract
- 3-10 key terms

# Abstract

## *Example*

### ABSTRACT

**Context:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Objective:** XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX

**Design, Setting, Participants:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX

**Main Outcome and Measures:** XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX

**Results:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX

**Conclusions:** XXXXXXXXXXXX

# Introduction

- Gives context for the article
- Provides the objective of the study
- States the hypothesis/Research Question
- States how and why the hypothesis was developed
- Explains why it is important

# Methods Section

- Includes a detailed description of the study design
- Includes the dates and period of the study
- Mentions institutional review board or ethics approval
- Includes conditions, factors, or diseases studied
- Provides details of sample (participants, how they were selected, inclusion and exclusion criteria)
- States the outcomes or observations
- Analyzes statistics



# Results

- Reports specific and relevant results to the hypothesis
- Includes the characteristics of participants, following the results
- Does not include study implications or weaknesses.

# Discussion

- Critically examines the study
- Addresses the hypothesis
- Compares and contrasts results with the findings of other studies
- Includes study limitations and unexpected findings with explanation
- Includes suggestions for the type of future studies that may be needed
- Ends with a clear and concise conclusion

# Bibliographic Style

**AMA** uses a uniform bibliographic style for citation and references with superscript Arabic numbers.

# AMA Style

## *In-Text Citations*

- Use numerical superscript format for citing sources.
- Place superscript outside period and commas but inside colons and semicolons.
- When 2 or more consecutive references are cited, used a hyphen to join the first and last numbers in a series.
- Use commas separate to references (no spaces between them).

# AMA Style

## *In-Text Citations (Cont'd)*

- Add a space at the end of the citation.
- Do not place a citation after a number or unit of measure.
- Use an asterisk (\*) in the text and complete the citation as a footnote when your citation exceeds 20-25 characters, including spaces and punctuation.
- Put page numbers in parentheses after the citation number, if necessary.

# AMA Style

## *In-Text Examples*

The study had 2 participants.<sup>3</sup> Participants were left-handed. The patients received many different treatments.\* The study showed all participants recovered quickly.<sup>1,5-9,19(pp24,28),31</sup> As previously reported,<sup>2(p21),10-15,22</sup> the study was a success.<sup>13,23-24</sup>

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*References 11, 14, 15, 22, 25, 26, 33, 35, 36.*

# AMA Style

## *In-Text Authors*

Only use author's surnames in the text and remember to use superscript next to the names.

### **One author:**

Doe<sup>7</sup> reported on the survey.

### **Two authors:**

Doe and Roe<sup>8</sup> reported on the survey.

### **More than two authors or authors and a group:**

Doe et al<sup>9</sup> reported on the survey.

Doe and associates<sup>9</sup> reported on the survey.

Doe and colleagues<sup>9</sup> reported on the survey.

# AMA Style

## *References*

- Found at the end of the manuscript
- Titled “References”
- Do not bold or underline title.
- List items in numerical order.
- Use single-spaced entries, but double-space between entries.



# References

## *Basic Format*

### Example

AuthorLastname FirstInitialMiddleInitial. Title in sentence case. *Name of Journal in Title Case*. Year; volume(Issue#): PP-PP.

No punctuation after AuthorLastname and FirstMiddleInitial. Comma between multiple authors.

# Reference List

## *Basic Form*

- Use author's surname followed by initials without any periods or punctuation.
- Use commas to separate more than one author.
- Use Roman numerals, if applicable (Brown TE III).
- Abbreviate, italicize, and use title case for names of journals (follow the **National Library of Medicine** database standards) .

# Reference List

## *Basic Format*

### **Book titles and names of journals:**

- Italicized
- Title case, including the subtitle

### **Article and chapter titles:**

- Not italicized
- Sentence case, including the subtitle

# Authors

## *One to Six and Group*

Use every authors' surname and initials

One author: Doe JF

Two authors: Doe JF, Roe JP III

Six authors: Doe JF, Roe JP III, Coe RT Jr, Loe JT Sr, Poe EA, van Voe AE.

**One author *for* or *and* a group:**

Doe JF; Laser ROP Study Group

Doe JF; for Laser ROP Study Group

Doe JF; and Laser ROP Study Group

# Authors

## *More than Six and Group*

Use the first 3 authors' names followed by et al.

Doe JF, Roe JP III, Coe RT Jr, et al.

**More than six authors *for or and* a group:**

Doe JF, Roe JP III, Coe RT Jr, et al;  
Laser ROP Study Group

Doe JF, Roe JP III, Coe RT Jr, et al;  
for Laser ROP Study Group

Doe JF, Roe JP III, Coe RT Jr, et al;  
and Laser ROP Study Group

# Bibliographic Groups

Each bibliographic group in a single entry is separated by a period. Within those groups, certain punctuation is used to distinguish each element.

# Bibliographic Groups

## *Comma*

Use a **comma** if items are subelements of a bibliographic element or a set of closely related items (author's names)

**Example:** Smith DC, Lin MC.

# Bibliographic Groups

## *Semicolon*

Use a **semicolon** if the elements in the group are different (between publisher's name and copyright year) or if there are multiple occurrences of logically related elements within a group. Also before volume information.

### Examples:

1. Partington A, ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. 4th ed. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press; 1992.
2. Haynes RB, Mulrow CD, Huth EJ, Altman DG, Gardner MJ. More informative abstracts revisited. *Ann Intern Med*. 1990;113(1):69-76.



# Bibliographic Groups

## Colon

Use a **colon** before publisher's name, between titles and subtitles, and after certain phrases ("Presented at")

### Example:

37. Bailer JC, Mosteller F. Medical Uses of Statistics. 2nd ed. Boston, MA: NEJM Books; 1992.

38. Pope C, Mays N. Reaching the parts other methods cannot reach: an introduction to qualitative methods in health and health services research. *BMJ*. 1995;311(6996)42-45.

# Print Sources

## *Journals*

AAuthorsSurname Initials, BAuthorsSurname Initials. Title of article: subtitle. *Abbreviated Name of Journal*. Year;volume number(issue#): pp-pp.

Example:

17. Rainier S, Thomas D, Tokarz D, et al. Myofibrillogenesis regulator 1 gene mutations cause paroxysmal dystonic choreoathetosis. *Arch Neurol*. 2004;61(7):1025-1029.

18. Letendre P. Complement: to be or not to be? *Transfusion*. 1990;30(5):478-479.

# Print Sources

## *Group Names and Committees*

Include Group or committee name in place of author's surname.

1. IUIS/WHO Subcommittee on Chemokine Nomenclature. Chemokine/chemokine receptor nomenclature. *J Interferon Cytokine Res.* 2002;22(10):1067-1068.
2. Eye Diseases Prevalence Research Group. Prevalence of age-related macular degeneration in the United States. *Arch Ophthalmol.* 2004;122(4):564-572.
3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevalence of receiving multiple preventive—care services among adults with diabetes—United States, 2002-2004. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2005;54(44)1130-1133.

# Print Sources

## *Entire Books*

AuthorSurname Initials. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Vol #. Edition. Place of Publication, State: Publisher Name; Year.

1. Modlin J, Jenkin P. *Decision Analysis in Planning for a Polio Outbreak in the United States*. San Francisco, CA: Pediatric Academic Societies; 2004.
2. World Health Organization. *Injury: A Leading Cause of the Global Burden of Disease, 2000*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2002.
3. Venables WN, Ripley BD. *Modern Applied Statistics With S*. 4th ed. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Co; 2003.

# Print Sources

## *Chapter in a Book*

AuthorSurname Initials. Chapter title: subtitle. In: EditorSurname Initials ed(s). *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Vol #. Edition. Place of Publication, State: Publisher Name; Year:pp-pp.

1. Solensky R. Drug allergy: desensitization and treatment of reactions to antibiotics and aspirin. In: Lockey P, ed. *Allergens and Allergen Immunotherapy*. 3rd ed. New York, NY: Marcel Dekker; 2004:585-606.
2. Yashiro M, Yanagawa, H. Database construction for informatin on patients with Kawasaki Disease. In Yanagawa H, Nakamura Y, Yashiro M, Kawasaki T, eds. *Epidemiology of Kawasaki Disease: A 30-Year Achievement*. Tokyo, Japan: Shindan-to-Chiryosha; 2004:57-77.

# Print Sources

## *Editor or Translators*

Names of editors, translators, translator-editors, consulting editors, etc. are included as such:

1. Plato. *The Laws*. Taylor EA, trans-ed. London, England: JM Dent & Sons Ltd; 1934:104-105.

*Plato is the author, Taylor is the translator-editor.*

2. Klaassen CD. Principles of toxicology and treatment of poisoning. In: Hardman JG, Limbird LE, eds. Gilman AG, consulting ed. *Goodman and Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*. 10th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Co; 2001;67-80.

*Klaassen is the author of the chapter in a book, which is edited by Hardman and Limbird, for which Gilman was the consulting editor.*

# Print Sources

## *More on Volume Numbers*

### Volume Numbers

- Only add volume number if the source has more than one volume.
- Use Arabic numerals even if Roman numerals are originally used.

### Example

1. US Department of Health and Human Services.  
*Understanding and Improving Health and Objectives for Improving Health*. Vol 1. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2000.

# Print Sources

## *More on Edition Numbers*

### **Edition Numbers**

- Only add edition number if it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or above, mention of 1<sup>st</sup> edition is unnecessary.
- Use Arabic numerals even if Roman numerals are originally used.
- Abbreviate:
  - “New revised edition” as “new rev ed”;
  - “Revised edition” as “rev ed”;
  - “American edition” as “American ed”
  - “British edition” as “British ed.”

### **Example**

1. Green M, ed. *Bright Futures: National Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children and Adolescents*. 2nd rev ed. Arlington, VA: National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health; 2002.



# Print Sources

## *Government or Agency Bulletins*

Surname Initials (if given) or Government Name. *Title of Bulletin*. City of publication, State: Name of Issuing Agency, Dept, etc. (use abbreviations); Year. pp-pp (if given). Series number, if given.

1. Johnston, LD, O'Malley PM, Bachman JG. *Monitoring the Future: National Survey Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings*. Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2003.
2. National Institutes of Health, US Department of Health and Human Services. *Strategic Plan for NIH Obesity Research: A Report to the NIH Obesity Research Task Force*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health; 2004. NIH publication 04-5493.

# Print Sources

## *Theses and Dissertations*

- Italicize the titles of theses and dissertations
- Include the location of the university
- Include type in brackets ([dissertation], [master's thesis]) and year of completion.
- Treat a published thesis as a book reference

### Examples

1. Fenster SD. *Cloning and Characterization of Piccolo, a Novel Component of the Presynaptic Cytoskeletal Matrix* [dissertation]. Birmingham: University of Alabama; 2000.
2. Undeman C. *Fully Automatic Segmentation of MRI Brain Images Using Probabilistic Diffusion and a Watershed Scale-Space Approach* [master's thesis]. Stockholm, Sweden: NADA, Royal Institute of Technology; 2001.

# Electronic Sources

## *Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)*

- DOIs remain stable even if content's location changes, unlike URLs.
- Use DOIs in place of URLs when available
- DOIs are placed after the last bibliographic group of a reference
- Accession date is not necessary

# Electronic Sources

## DOIs

Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue no.):inclusive pages. doi:10.0000000/00000000000000.

### Example:

1. Smeeth L, Iliffe S. Community screening for visual impairment in the elderly. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2002;(2):CD001054. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD1001054.
2. Kitajima TS, Kawashima SA, Watanabe Y. The conserved kinetochore protein shugoshin protects centromeric cohesion during meiosis. *Nature*. 2004;427(6974):510-517. doi:10.1038/nature02312.

# Online Journals

Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue no.):inclusive pages. <http://xxxxxxx>. Published [date]. Updated [date]. Accessed [date].

*Remember to use the National Library of Medicine's abbreviation for journal names and skip over information that is unknown.*

## Examples:

1. Duchin JS. Can preparedness for biological terrorism save us from pertussis? *Arch Pediatr Adoles Med*. 2004;158(2):106-107. <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/158/2/106>. Accessed June 1, 2004.

# Online Books

Author(s). Chapter title. In: Editor(s). *Book Title*. [Edition number] ed. City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's name; copyright:inclusive pages. URL. Accessed [date].

- Like print sources, only mention edition number if it is the second edition or above, no need to mention first edition.
- Verify URL as close to the publication date as possible to make sure it is still active.
- If citing an entire book, there's no need to cite a chapter or page range.

# Online Books

## *Examples*

1. Lunney JR, Foley KM, Smith TJ, Gelband H, eds. *Describing Death in America: What We Need to Know*. Washington, DC: National Cancer Policy Board, Institute of Medicine; 2003.  
<http://www.nap.edu/books/0309087252/html/>. Accessed December 6, 2005.
2. Resnick NM. Geriatric medicine. In: Braunwald E, Fauci AS, Isselbacher KJ, et al, eds. *Harrison's Online*. Based on: Braunwald E, Hauser SL, Fauci AS, Kasper DL, Longo DL, Jameson JL, eds. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*. 15th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2001.  
<http://www.hslls.pitt.edu/resources/documentation/harrisonsinfo.html>. Accessed December 6, 2005.

# Websites

Author(s), if provided. Title of the specific item cited. Name of the website. URL. Published [date]. Updated [date]. Accessed [date].

- If there is no title for the specific item you are citing, use the name of the organization of the site.
- Verify URL as close to the publication date as possible to make sure it is still active.
- Do not italicize website's name.



# Websites

## *Examples*

1. International Society for Infectious Diseases. ProMED-mail Web site.  
<http://www.promedmail.org>. Accessed April 29, 2004.
2. Sullivan D. Major search engines and directories. SearchEngineWatch Web site. <http://searchenginewatch.com/links/article.php/2156221>.  
Updated April 28, 2004. Accessed December 6, 2005.
3. Interim guidance about avian influenza A (H5N1) for US citizens living abroad. Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.  
[http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian\\_flu\\_ig\\_americans\\_abroad\\_032405.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_ig_americans_abroad_032405.htm). Updated November 18, 2005. Accessed December 6, 2005.
4. Sample size calculation. Grapentine Co Inc.  
<http://www.grapentine.com/calculator.htm>. Accessed December 6, 2005.

# Other Common Online Sources

## Newspapers:

1. Weiss R. The promise of precision prescriptions. *Washington Post*. June 24, 2000:A1. <http://www.washingtonpost.com>. Accessed October 10, 2001.
2. Perez-Pena R. Children in shelters hit hard by asthma. *New York Times*. March 2, 2004.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/02/nyregion/02asthma.html>. Accessed 2, 2004.

## Government/Organization Reports

1. World Health Organization. Equitable access to essential medicines: a frame-work for collective action.  
[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2004/WHO\\_EDM\\_2004.4.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2004/WHO_EDM_2004.4.pdf). Published March 2004. Accessed December 6 2005.

# AMA Style

## *Inclusive Language*

**AMA** avoids the use of language that imparts bias against persons or groups on the basis of sex, race or ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation. Only specify if relevant (for example, a study of only female physicians).

- Use gender and sex neutral terminology
- Use person-first language ("person with a disability"; "person with diabetes")

# Resources

## AMA Manual of Style

JAMA & Archives Journals American Medical Association. *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 10th ed. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press; 2007.

## CWE Digital Dashboard

<https://www.montclair.edu/center-for-writing-excellence/cwe-digital-dashboard/resources-for-writers/citing-sources/#AMA>

## Purdue OWL

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/ama\\_style/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/ama_style/index.html)



# Q&A and Discussion

- *There is no great writing, only great rewriting.*  
--Justice Brandeis
- *Writing is 1 percent inspiration, and 99 percent elimination.*  
--Louise Brooks