AMA
Citation Style for Academic Writing

Center for Writing Excellence
AMA Style

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

The most current edition is the 10th 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
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: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx

Main Outcome and Measures: xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx

Results: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx

Conclusions: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
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, use 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.
In-Text Examples

The study had 2 participants. Participants were left-handed. The patients received many different treatments.* The study showed all participants recovered quickly. As previously reported, the study was a success.

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\textsuperscript{7} reported on the survey.

Two authors:
Doe and Roe\textsuperscript{8} reported on the survey.

More than two authors or authors and a group:
Doe et al\textsuperscript{9} reported on the survey.
Doe and associates\textsuperscript{9} reported on the survey.
Doe and colleagues\textsuperscript{9} 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.

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; 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:**


Bibliographic Groups

Colon

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

**Example:**

Print Sources

Journals

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

Example:

Print Sources

Group Names and Committees

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


Print Sources

Entire Books


Chapter in a Book


Print Sources

Editor or Translators

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


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
Print Sources

More on Edition Numbers

Edition Numbers
• Only add edition number if it’s the 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition or above, mention of 1\textsuperscript{st} 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
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.


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


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:10.0000000/000000000000.

**Example:**


Online Journals


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

**Examples:**
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.

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


Other Common Online Sources

Newspapers:

Government/Organization Reports
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

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
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