

AMA style

AMA is the citation and formatting style of the American Medical Association. It is frequently used for scientific publishing within the health and biological sciences. This handout will guide you through the basics of citing in AMA style. For more comprehensive answers to your AMA questions, see the AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors (currently in its 10th edition). You can also try searching the online AMA style manual at amamanualofstyle.com.

Citation and Plagiarism

Why Cite?

Citation serves two purposes: It gives credit to the sources whose work you used, and it helps the reader find additional information by locating the original source. By citing effectively, you demonstrate to your audience that you understand the ongoing conversation on your subject.

What Counts as Plagiarism?

Plagiarism occurs when another's work is used without giving credit to the author. It is also possible to self-plagiarize by misrepresenting one's own previously published work as new.

Quoting versus Paraphrasing

Direct quotations are best when the original wording is particularly eloquent, when you want the reader to know exactly what your source had to say on a subject, or when it is impossible to rephrase the quotation without losing its essential meaning. Otherwise, you can paraphrase by putting the material in your own words.

Do not simply change a few words here and there—a paraphrase should present the author's ideas in a new form, with a different sentence and paragraph structure. Remember that even when paraphrasing, you must always credit your source.

Note: For more information on how and when to summarize, paraphrase, and quote, please see our "Incorporating Sources" [handout](#).

In-text Citation: The Basics

Citation Components and Placement (3.5-6)

Unlike APA, AMA makes use of endnotes. Each work you reference is assigned a number. The first work you reference will be noted by an Arabic superscript "1," the second by a "2," and so on. These in-text superscript numbers will correspond with the numbers listed on the reference page—found at the end of the text.

Superscript numbers are placed outside periods and commas, but inside colons and semicolons.

Example: Low-blood sugar is a known symptom of hypoglycemia.¹

Example: The study produced several findings^{3,4}:

Do not put superscript reference numbers directly after other numbers or exponents. Instead, wait to place them after an unabbreviated unit of measurement.

Incorrect: The medicine was sampled on 36² mice.

Correct: The medicine was sampled on 36 mice.²

Two sources should never be combined under a single reference number—even if written by the same author.

Multiple Citations of the Same Work (3.6)

Use the same reference number each time you cite the same work.

Multiple Works in the Same Sentence (3.6)

Use commas—with no spaces in between—to separate multiple citations in a single sentence (e.g., 1,3).

However, if consecutively numbered sources are being used (e.g., 1, 2, and 3), use a hyphen to join the first and last numbers of the closed series (e.g., 1-3). There should be no spaces before or after the hyphen.

Example: Various studies demonstrated a significant relationship between the data sets.^{4,9-11}

Personal Communications (3.13.9)

Personal communications—oral, written, and electronic—should be cited parenthetically within the text itself, not on the reference list.

Example: According to an email from Robert Johnson (July 2014)...

If you haven't indicated the type of communication in the text (i.e., oral or written), do so in the parentheses.

Example: Based on the findings discussed by the researcher (R. Johnson, oral communication, July 2014)...

Reference List: The Basics

While each journal has its own guidelines regarding the formatting of references, most expect you to adhere to the same basic principles.

List items numerically in the order they are cited in the text. Single-space within citations and double-space between citations.

1. Gollust SE, Niederdeppe J, Barry CL. Framing the consequences of childhood obesity to increase public support for Obesity Prevention Policy. *Am J Public Health*. 2013;103(11):96-102.
2. Sanjeevi CB, ed. *Immunology of Diabetes: Autoimmune Mechanisms and the Prevention and Cure of Type 1 Diabetes*. New York, NY: Academy of Sciences; 2002.
3. Woodward-Lopez G. *Obesity: Dietary and Developmental Influences*. Boca Raton, FL: Taylor &



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Francis; 2006.

Each reference contains a combination of five basic elements: the authors' names, the title, the publication information, the publication date, and page numbers. If any of the items featured below are unavailable, skip it and move on to what comes next.

Authors' Names (3.7)

Use each author's surname followed by first and middle initials **without** periods or spaces.

Example: Smith JA

Include up to six authors separated by commas. Do not use "and" between names.

Example: Smith JA, Jones KB, McGuire LC, Tucker MF, Johnson NE, Glover OD

For more than six authors, provide the names of the first three authors followed by "et al."

Example: Smith JA, Jones KB, McGuire LC, et al.

Titles (3.9, 3.10, & 3.11.2)

For **article and chapter titles**, capitalize only the first letter of the first word, proper names, and abbreviations that are usually capitalized. Subtitles follow the same rules, but the first word is not capitalized unless it is a proper noun.

Example: Childhood obesity rates in the United States.

For **other titles**, such as book titles, capitalize all words except articles, prepositions, or words less than three letters long. Include subtitles. Be sure to use italics.

Example: *Obesity: Dietary and Developmental Influences.*

Periodicals—journals, magazines, and newspapers—should have abbreviated titles. Abbreviations for many common medical journals can be found in the *AMA Manual of Style* (pp. 473-479). Additional abbreviations can be searched in the PubMed Journal Database: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>.

Example: *Digestive Diseases and Sciences* → *Dig Dis Sci*

Example: *New England Journal of Medicine* → *N Engl J Med*

Publication Information (3.12.6-9)

Books: List the edition number after the title if it is second edition or above.

Example: *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 10th ed.

Next, list the city and state—or country if not published in the U.S.—of the publisher as well as the publisher's name. If more than one location is listed, use the one that comes first. The location and name of the publisher should be separated by a colon.

Example: New York, NY: Informal Healthcare.

However, if the state name is included in the publisher's name, you don't need to include it in the location.

Example: College Station: Pennsylvania State University.



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If no publisher is listed, use “Publisher unknown.” in place of the publisher name and location information.

Journals and Magazines: List the volume and issue number. The volume number should come after the year of publication separated by a semicolon with no space on either side. The volume number is immediately followed by the issue number in parentheses—again with no space in between.

Example: 2014;8(6).

If there is no issue number, specify the month before the year.

Example: Jan 2014;8.

Do not include the issue number or month unless volumes are consecutively numbered.

Publication Date (3.12.10)

Use the copyright year unless otherwise noted. If no publication date is listed, use “Date unknown.” Also, be sure to use the full year (e.g., 2008)—not an abbreviation (e.g. '08).

Books: Place the publication year after the name of the publisher. The publisher name and publication year should be separated by a semicolon.

Example: Smith & Lawrence; 2009.

Journals and Magazines: List the publication year after the title of the journal but before the volume number. There should be a space between the publication year and the title of the journal, which is followed by a period. There is no space between the publication year, which is followed by a semicolon, and the issue number.

Example: *Am J Public Health*. 2013;103.

Newspapers: Use the full publication date—month, day, and year. Place this information after the name of the paper, but before the page numbers. The publication date and page numbers should be separated by a colon with a single space on the side of the page numbers.

Example: *The Baltimore Sun*. June 20, 2014: A1-3.

Page Numbers (3.12.11)

Include page numbers for the types of sources listed below. Use Arabic numerals unless Roman numerals are listed within the text itself—for example, for the pages contained within the preface of a book.

Example: 2012:v-x.

If possible, use inclusive numbers. However, if these are not given by the author, the chapter number may be used instead.

Example: 2012:chap 4.

Book Chapters or Articles: List page numbers after the publication year, which is followed by a colon. There should be no space on either side of the colon, and the page numbers should be followed by a period.

Example: 2012:93-98.

Journals and Magazines: List page numbers after the issue number, which is followed by a colon. There should be no space on either side of the colon, and the page numbers should be followed by a

period.

Example: (1):83-85.

Newspapers: List page numbers after the publication date, which is followed by a colon. There should be no space on either side of the colon, and the page numbers should be followed by a period.

Example: June 20, 2014:A2-A7.

If an article jumps from one page to a later page, separate the page numbers with a comma.

Example: June 20, 2014:A2, A7.

Reference List: Examples

Books (3.12)

One Author: Author. *Title of Book*. City, State: Publisher; year.

One Author: Woodward-Lopez G. *Obesity: Dietary and Developmental Influences*. Boca Raton, FL: Taylor & Francis; 2006.

Multiple Authors: Authors. *Title of Book*. City, State: Publisher; year.

Multiple Authors: Clement K, Thorkild IA. *Obesity: Genomics and Postgenomics*. New York, NY: Informa Healthcare; 2008.

Groups as Authors: Name of Organization. *Title of Book*. City, State: Publisher; year.

Groups as Authors: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. *Women with Diabetes: Quality of Health Care*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2008.

Edited: Author(s), eds. *Title of Book*. City, State: Publisher; year.

Edited: Sanjeevi CB, ed. *Immunology of Diabetes: Autoimmune Mechanisms and the Prevention and Cure of Type 1 Diabetes*. New York, NY: Academy of Sciences; 2002.

Chapter or Article: Author(s) of chapter. Title of chapter. In: Editor's name, ed. *Title of Book*. City, State: Publisher; year: chapter or page number(s).

Chapter or Article: Turner PT. Prevalence of type 1 diabetes among minority populations in the U.S. In: Sanjeevi CB, ed. *Immunology of Diabetes: Autoimmune Mechanisms and the Prevention and Cure of Type 1 Diabetes*. New York, NY: Academy of Sciences; 2002:219-234.

Encyclopedia Article: Author(s). Title of article. In: Title of Encyclopedia. Vol. [number]. City, State: Publisher; year: page number(s).

Encyclopedia Article: Burke M. Heart attack. In: *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Vol. 4. Chicago, IL: Encyclopedia Britannica Inc; 2003:210-211.

Journal or Magazine Articles (3.11, 3.15.1)

The preferred citation style for an electronic journal uses a **Digital Object Identifier (DOI)**. The DOI provides a persistent link to the electronic item and is considered to be more stable than a URL. If the DOI is not listed for a full-text article, try to locate it via a tool like crossref: <http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/>.

If there is no DOI, provide the URL for the specific article. There is no specific way to cite articles found in library databases.

One Author: Author. Title of article. *Name of Journal*. Year;vol(issue): page number(s).

One Author: Horkan AM. Alarm fatigue and patient safety. *Nephrol Nurs J*. 2014;41(1):83-85.

Multiple Authors: Authors. Title of article. *Name of Journal*. Year;vol(issue):page number(s).

Multiple Authors: Gollust SE, Niederdeppe J, Barry CL. Framing the consequences of childhood obesity to increase public support for Obesity Prevention Policy. *Am J Public Health*. 2013;103(11):96-102.

Online with DOI: Author. Title of article. *Name of Journal*. Year;volume(issue):page number(s). doi:xx.xxxx.

Online with DOI: Fradkin JE, Rodgers GP. Diabetes research: a perspective from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. *Diabetes*. 2013;62(2):320-326. doi:10.2337.

Online without DOI: Author. Title of article. *Name of Journal*. Year;volume(issue):page number(s). URL. Published [date]. Accessed [date].

Online without DOI: Fradkin JE, Rodgers GP. Diabetes research: a perspective from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. *Diabetes*. 2013;62(2):320-326. <http://diabetes.diabetesjournal.org/content/62/2/320.full>. February1, 2014. Accessed March 14, 2014.

Newspaper Articles (3.13.1, 3.15.4)

If the city name is not a part of the newspaper name, it may be added to the official name for clarity.

Example: the *Times-Journal* → the *Fort Payne Times-Journal*

Print: Author. Title of article. *Name of Paper*. Date published: page number(s).

Print: Parker-Pope T. Tackling a racial gap in breast cancer survival. *New York Times*. December 20, 2013: A1-A22.

Online: Author. Title of article. *Name of Paper*. Date published: page numbers (s). URL. Accessed [date].

Online: Parker-Pope T. Tackling a racial gap in breast cancer survival. *New York Times*. December 20, 2013. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/20/health/tackling-a-racial-gap-in-breast-cancer-survival.html?_r=0. Accessed March 14, 2014.

Electronic Resources (3.15)

E-book: Author(s). *Title of Book*. City, State: Publisher; year. URL. Accessed [date].

E-book: Petry C. *Gestational Diabetes: Origins, Complications, and Treatment*. Hoboken, NJ: Taylor & Francis; 2014. <http://taylorandfrancisonline.com/ebook/8462537>. Accessed March 14, 2014.

Web Site: Author(s). Title of item cited. Name of website. URL. Published [date]. Updated [date]. Accessed [date].

Web Site: Lung cancer center: stages, symptoms, causes, tests, and treatments. WebMD. <http://www.webmd.com/lung-cancer/default.htm?names-dropdown=MA>. Published 2014. Accessed March 14, 2014.

Blog: Author or responsible body. Title or subject of post. Title of blog. Published [date]. Accessed [date]. Available at [URL].

Blog: Parker-Pope T. The breast cancer racial gap. The Well Column. Published March 3, 2014. Accessed March 14, 2014. Available at <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/03/03/the-breast-cancer-racial-gap/>.

Government/Organization Reports: Author(s). Title of report. URL. Published [date]. Accessed [date].

Government/Organization Reports: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States, 2013. <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf>. Published September 16, 2013. Accessed March 14, 2014.



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Conference Proceedings/Presentations: Author(s). Title. Paper presented at: Name of Event; Date; City, State. URL. Accessed [date].

Conference Proceedings/Presentations: Goesling B, Colman S, Trenholm C, Terzian M, Moore K. Treatment to reduce teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and associated sexual risk behaviors. Paper presented at: 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine; March 23-26, 2014; Austin, TX. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24525227>. Accessed March 26, 2014.

Audiovisual Media (3.14)

Audiovisual media include motion pictures, audio or television broadcasts, and static objects such as maps or photos.

Example: Author. *Title* [format]. City, State: Publisher; year.

Example: Droz-Tragos T, Droz-Palermo A. *Sarah's Uncertain Path* [video]. New York, NY: The New York Times; 2014.

Dissertations and Master's Theses (3.13.4)

If the name of the publisher (i.e. the university) includes the state name, do not include it after the city.

Example: Author. *Title of Dissertation or Thesis* [dissertation/master's thesis]. City, State: Publisher; year.

Example: Davila N. *Physical Activity in Puerto Rican Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus* [dissertation]. Tucson: University of Arizona; 2010.

Unpublished Works (3.13.8)

Sometimes you may choose to reference work that is unpublished or in press. It is your responsibility to continuously update these references as their publication status changes.

Presented at a Meeting: Browick P. Diabetes rate in rural Kansas towns. Poster presented at: 12th Annual Meeting of Mid-West Doctors; June 2013; San Diego, CA.

Accepted for Publication: Browick P. Diabetes rate in rural Kansas towns. *Mid-West Doctors*. In press.

If your paper has been submitted for publication but has not been accepted yet, do not list it on the reference page. Instead, use a variation of the following format to form an in-text citation:

Submitted for Publication: These findings in the rise of diabetes have been described by Browick (unpublished data, June 2013)...

References

- Health Sciences Library, New York Medical College. AMA (American Medical Association) Reference Citation Format. Health Sciences Library. <http://library.nymc.edu/informatics/amastyle.cfm>. Accessed January 13, 2014.
- Iverson C, Christiansen S, Flanagan A, et al., eds. *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 10th Edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- James Madison University Libraries. American Medical Association (AMA) Citation Style. James Madison University Libraries. <http://www.lib.jmu.edu/citation/amaguide.pdf>. Revised November 1, 2012. Accessed January 13, 2014.
- Texas A & M University Libraries. Using the AMA Format. University Libraries. <http://library.tamu.edu/help/help-yourself/citing-sources/files/Using-the-AMA-Style.pdf>. Published 2009. Accessed January 13, 2014.
- University of Evansville. AMA Style Guidelines. University Libraries. <http://www.evansville.edu/libraries/ama.cfm>. Accessed January 13, 2014.
- University of Illinois at Chicago University Library. Quick Guide to AMA Style Reference Lists. University of Illinois at Chicago University Library. http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/402/174869/AMA_One_Page_Style_Guide.pdf. Accessed January 13, 2014.



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