

# AMA Format Guide

## WHAT IS AMA FORMAT?

AMA format is based on the *American Medical Association Manual of Style*. This style is often used for scholarly writing about medicine, other health-related topics, or additional areas in the sciences. The following is a guide to the most frequently used citations in AMA. Remember to always consult your professor for specific instructions when formatting a paper.

## Special notes regarding formatting your Reference List:

- All in-text citations are followed by a superscript Arabic numeral that corresponds with the entry # in the REFERENCES section.
- If the work is cited more than once during the paper, use the same entry # for each in-text citation.
- Never put a numerical superscript after a number (e.g. Symptoms have been seen in a sample size of 1,344.<sup>3</sup>). This looks too much like a mathematical notation.
- Title the section REFERENCES in all caps and left justified.
- The REFERENCES section is single spaced and all entries are left aligned (no indentation).
- Works referenced should be listed in the order they are mentioned in the paper, NOT in alphabetical order.
- When citing a journal article or chapter from a book, use sentence case in the reference list. This means that only the first letter of the title should be capitalized (unless there is a colon in the title, in which case the word following the colon gets capitalized).
- When citing the name of a journal or title of a book, capitalize all key words contained in the title.

## Example of in-text citation style:

Melanoma of the skin is generally identified by certain characteristics;<sup>1</sup> however, recent clinical trials have shown some of these to be incorrect identifiers of melanoma.<sup>2</sup>

## Examples of Reference List entries:

### Book—Single Author:

Author. *Book Title*. Edition number (if 2nd edition or above). City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's Name; copyright year.

Henry TV. *Decontamination for Hazardous Materials Emergencies*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Cengage Delmar Learning; 1998.

**Book—Multiple Authors:** Authors (in alphabetical order). *Book Title*. Edition number (if 2nd edition or above). City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's Name; copyright year.

Daosni M, Miller J. *Materials-Handling Technologies Used at Hazardous Waste Sites*. 2nd ed. Dayton, OH: Noyes Data Publications; 1992.

**Book with Editors:** Editor(s) (in alphabetical order), eds. *Book Title*. Edition number (if 2nd edition or above). City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's Name; copyright year.

Hayes ER, Kee JO, MuCuiston LE, eds. *Pharmacology: A Nursing Process Approach*. Boston, MA: Elsevier Health Sciences; 2005.

**Chapter from a Book:** Author of chapter. Title of Chapter. In: Author of Book. *Title of Book*. City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's Name; copyright year.

Pall MJ, Timmerson WK. Genes and genomes. In: Johnson MA, Waterman WJ. *Biology*. New York, NY: Benjamin Cummings; 2004.

\*Note: All journal titles are abbreviated using the National Library of Medicine abbreviations—see section 14.10 of the *AMA Manual of Style* for list of approved abbreviations.\*

**Article from Journal:**  
(single author) Author(s). Article title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue#):inclusive pages.

A Guglicci. Antithrombin activity is inhibited by acrolein and homocysteine thiolactone: Protection by cysteine. *Life Sci*. 2008;82(5):413-418.

**Article from Journal:**  
(multiple authors) Authors. Article title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue#):inclusive pages.

Green JJ, Hutter DE, Till TE. Redox state changes in density-dependent regulation of proliferation. *Exp Cell Res*. 1997;75:435-438.

\*Note: List ALL authors only if there are six or fewer. If there are more than six authors, list the first three followed by "et al."\*

**Article from Journal:**  
(discontinuous pagination) Author(s). Article title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue#):inclusive pages.

Jennings M, Lohr J, Rhoades T. Symptoms of acute appendicitis caused by primary neuroma of the appendix. *Ame Surg*. 2007;73(8):1-5.

\*Note: A journal either has continuous pagination (meaning that if the first issue has pages number 1-500, the second issue would have pages numbered 501-1000 etc.) or discontinuous pagination (meaning that each new issue begins with page 1).

**Online Journals:**  
(with DOI# listed)

\*Note: The DOI is known as the “digital object identifier” and is located near the title and author section of the articles in most online journals. When the DOI# is listed, it is preferable to use that in place of the URL.\*

Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue#):inclusive pages. DOI#. Published date (if available). Updated date (if available). Accessed date.

Febbraio MA. Gp130 receptor ligands as potential therapeutic targets for obesity. *J Clin Invest*. 2007;117(4):841-849. Doi:10.1172/JCI30453. Accessed February 6, 2008.

**Online Journals:**  
(without DOI# Listed)

Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. Year;vol(issue#):inclusive pages. Complete URL. Published date (if available). Updated date (if available). Accessed date.

Febbraio MA. Gp130 receptor ligands as potential therapeutic targets for obesity. *J Clin Invest* 2007;117(4):841-849.

**Online Journals:**  
(without volume/page #)

Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. URL. Publication date. Accessed date.

Edmunds WJ, Siddiqui MR. Cost-effectiveness of antiviral stockpiling and near-patient testing for potential influenza pandemic. *Emerg Infect Dis* Feb 2008. <http://www.cdc.gov>. Accessed February 6, 2008.

**Newspaper Article:**

Author(s). Title of article. *Newspaper Name*. Date of Publication: section/page number.

Jackson KJ. Influenza claims the lives of thousands in rural territory. *Monmouth Daily Sun*. April 16, 2007:A1.

**Corporate Web Site:**

Author(s) (if given). Title of the specific item cited (if none is given, use the name of the organization responsible for the site). Name of the Web site. URL. Published date. Updated date. Accessed date.

Pfizer. Pfizer Helpful Answers. <http://www.pfizer.com/>. Accessed February 6, 2008.