



THE DOCUMENTED ESSAY AMA Documentation Style

The following are guidelines for the documentation style recommended by the American Medical Association (AMA). AMA style may be required for some courses in the health sciences, including community health and nursing. Check with your course instructor if AMA documentation style is required for your particular course.

The AMA uses an endnote documentation style, which means that in the text each source is indicated by number, and at the end of the text, there is a numbered list giving full bibliographic information of the sources. This list is titled **References**.

IN-TEXT CITATION

When citing sources in your text, each reference should be cited in consecutive numerical order by means of superscript Arabic numerals.

The findings¹ show that...

If the author's name is included in your citation, the superscript reference citation immediately follows the name.

Gilman¹ reported that...

If you use a direct quotation, place the superscript reference citation immediately following the close-quote.

According to Gilman, "The treatment is only advised in the absence of depression."¹

When citing different page number(s) from the same source more than once in your text, the page number(s) are included in the superscript citation and the source appears only once in the list of references. **Note that all spaces in the superscript citation are closed up.**

Altman³ reported that the aversion to organ donation decreased in pietistic denominations, which supported Gilman^{1(p33)} and LaFollete's⁴ earlier findings.

When more than two references are cited at a given place in the text, use hyphens to join the first and last numbers of a closed series; use commas without space to separate other parts of a multiple citation.

As reported previously,^{1,3-8,19}

Note that AMA documentation style does not use citation abbreviations common to other documentation styles like Chicago and Notes-Bibliography (e.g., "ibid." and "op cit.").

THE LIST OF REFERENCES

Reference listings are numbered according to their number in the text. Listings should include basic information about author(s), title(s) of sources included in text, publishing information, as well as specific information, such as volume and issue numbers, page numbers, and URL, and date of access, depending on the type of source.

References to information that is retrievable should be listed in the reference list. References to unpublished material or to personal communications (oral, written, or electronic) are not to be included in the reference list. Instead, if appropriate, they should be included parenthetically in the text.

Citing Nonperiodical Print Publications

Entries for nonperiodical print publications (i.e., books, pamphlets, or works by a corporate, institutional, or governmental author) consist of several elements in a prescribed sequence as follows:

- **Author's surname followed by first and middle initials without periods.** The author citation is followed by a period.
- **Chapter title** (when cited). Capitalize only the first word of the chapter title.
- **Surnames and first and middle initials of book authors, editors, or translators,** separated by commas
- **Title of book and subtitle,** if any, in italics. Capitalize words other than prepositions and articles.
- **Volume number and volume title,** when there is more than one volume
- **Edition number,** abbreviated as **ed.** Do not indicate a first edition.
- **Place of publication,** followed by a colon
- **Name of publisher,** followed by a semi-colon
- **Year of copyright,** followed by a period (or by a colon, if page numbers are cited)
- **Page numbers,** when specific pages are cited, followed by a period

A Work by a Single Author

1. LaFollette MC. *Stealing into Print: Fraud, Plagiarism, and Misconduct in Scientific Publishing*. Berkeley: University of California Press; 1992.

A Work by a Single Author, Later Edition

2. Aldrich EV. *Using Books and Libraries*. 5th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall; 1959.

A Work by Two or More Authors: do not use the word “and” between names.

3. Modlin J, Jenkins P. *Decision Analysis in Planning for a Polio Outbreak in the United States*. San Francisco, CA: Pediatric Academic Societies; 2004.

A Work by Six or More Authors: names of the first three are cited, followed by “et al.”

4. Simon LS, Lipman AG, Jacox AK, et al. *Pain in Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Juvenile Chronic Arthritis*. 2nd ed. Glenview, IL: American Pain Society; 2002.

A Work by a Corporate, Institutional, or Governmental Author: when citing a selection from a larger work, use initial capital letters; do not use quotation marks.

5. US Department of Health and Human Services. Maternal, infant, and child health. In: *Healthy People 2010*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2000.

A Work by an Editor, Compiler, or Translator

6. Sharpe VA, ed. *Accountability: Patient Safety and Policy Reform*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press; 2004.

A Work with More than One Volume

7. 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.

A Selection from a Collection or Anthology: as above, when citing a selection, use initial capital letters; do not use quotation marks.

8. Cole BR. Cystinosis and cystinuria. In: Jacobson HR, Striker GE, Klahr S, eds. *The Principles and Practice of Nephrology*. Philadelphia, Pa: BC Decker Inc; 1991:396-403.

Citing Periodical Print Publications

Basic information for a periodical source includes the following, if applicable:

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- **Author’s surname followed by first and middle initials without periods.** The author citation is followed by a period.
- **Title of article and subtitle**, if any, in sentence style (using initial capital letters).
- **Abbreviated name of journal**, in italics, followed by a period. Abbreviate names of journals according to the listing in the PubMed Journals database.
- **Year**, followed by a semi-colon, or **Date of newspaper issue**, followed by a colon
- **Volume number**, followed by a colon
- **Part or supplement number** (when pertinent) followed by a colon, and **issue number** (in parentheses), followed by a colon
- **Inclusive page numbers**, followed by a period.

Note: In AMA style, there are no spaces following punctuation marks indicating publication information of periodicals.

An Article from a Print Journal, Author Given

9. Gilman J. Religious perspectives on organ donation. *Crit Care Nurs Q*. 1999;22:19-29.

An Article from a Print Journal with No Volume or Issue Numbers

10. Flyvholm MA, Susitaival P, Meding B, et al. Nordic occupational skin questionnaire—NOSQ-2002: Nordic questionnaire for surveying work-related skin diseases on hands and forearms and relevant exposure. *TemaNord*. April 2002:518.

An Article from a Print Journal with an Issue Number but No Volume Number

11. Keppel K, Pamuk E, Lynch J, et al. Methodologic issues in measuring health disparities. *Vital Health Stat 2*. 2005;(141):1-16.

An Article from a Supplement in a Print Journal

12. Body JJ, Greipp P, Coleman RE, et al. A phase 1 study of AMGN-0007, a recombinant osteoprotegerin construct, in patients with multiple myeloma or breast carcinoma related metastases. *Cancer*. 2003;97(3)(suppl):887-892.

An Article in a Newspaper

13. Altman LK. Medical errors bring calls for change. *New York Times*. July 18, 1995:C1, C10.

Citing Electronic Sources

An Article in an Online Journal, Author Given

14. Duchin JS. Can preparedness for biological terrorism save us from pertussis? *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 2004;158(2):106-107. <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/158/2/106>. Accessed December 6, 2005.

An Online Book

15. 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.

An Online Book in CD-ROM Format

16. Alberts B, Johnson A, Lewis J, et al. *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (CD-ROM). 4th ed New York: Garland Science; 2002.