

Research Skills

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PRESENT YOUR WORK

AMA Style Guide

The American Medical Association (AMA) documentation style is widely used for writing in the biomedical sciences.



The current 11th edition of the AMA Manual of Style is available:

- In Print
- Online

We also have a [Quick Guide for AMA Style \[PDF\]](#).

REFERENCE LISTS

General Formatting Rules

NUMBERING

- Number your references at the end of your document in the order they first appear in your paper, including any figures, charts or tables; do not alphabetize.

AUTHORS

- Use the author's last name followed by the initials of the author's first name and middle name, if known, without periods.
- List all authors if six or fewer; for more than six authors list the first three followed by "et al."
- If there is no named author, use the authoring group, committee or organization, or omit. See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.7.

TITLES

- For article and chapter titles, capitalize only the first word, proper nouns, names of clinical trials or study groups, and abbreviations.
- For book titles, capitalize all major words and use italics.

ONLINE SOURCES

- A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a unique number that can act as a persistent URL. Use a DOI in place of the URL whenever one is provided.
- If using a URL, include the accessed date.
- Do not use a period after a URL or DOI, as it may interfere with hyperlinks.

Articles

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.11.

Abbreviate journal titles as shown in the [National Library of Medicine Catalog](#).

Journal Article

Format:

Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of article. *Abbreviated Journal Title*. Year;Issue(Volume):Page-Page. doi:

Example with DOI:

Lohela TJ, Lilius TO, Nedergaard M. The glymphatic system: implications for drugs for central nervous system diseases. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*. 2022;21(10):763-779. doi: 0.1038/s41573-022-00500-9

Example with URL:

Shukla H, Meldrum A, Boyd D. Dental and oro-facial features of Foetal Anticonvulsant Syndrome. *N Z Med J*. 2023;136(1579):24-35. Accessed August 2, 2024. <https://journal.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/dental-and-oro-facial-features-of-foetal-anticonvulsant-syndrome>

Print Journal:

Snow, H. The germ theory of disease. *J Osteopath (Kirksvill)*. 1913;20(4):207-209.

Newspaper Article

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.13.1

Format:

Author AA. Title of article. *Newspaper*. Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL

Example:

Perez-Pena R. Children in shelters hit hard by asthma. *NY Times*. March 2, 2024. Accessed December 2, 2025. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/02/nyregion/02asthma.html>

Note:

For print newspapers, use section and/or pages in place of the URL.

Books

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.12.1.

Print Book

Format:

Author AA, Author BB. *Book Title*. Edition. Publisher; Year.

Example:

Etzel RA, Balk SJ. *Pediatric Environmental Health*. 4th ed. American Academy of Pediatrics; 2011.

e-book

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.12.11

Format:

Author AA, Author BB. *Title of Book*. Edition. Publisher; Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL

Example:

Prentice WE. *Principles of Athletic Training: A Guide to Evidence-Based Clinical Practice*. 18th ed. McGraw Hill; 2024. Accessed January 2, 2025. <https://accessphysiotherapy-mhmedical-com.une.idm.oclc.org/book.aspx?bookid=3472>

Book Chapter

Format:

Author AA, Author BB. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, Editor BB eds. *Title of Book*. Edition. Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL or Publisher; Year.

Print Example:

Prince M, Glozier N, Sousa R, Dewey M. Measuring disability across physical, mental, and cognitive disorders. In: Regier DA, Narrow WE, Kuhl EA, Kupfer DJ, eds. *The Conceptual Evolution of DSM-5*. American Psychiatric Publishing Inc; 2011:189-227.

e-book Example:

Sudarsky L. Gait and balance disorders. In: Kasper DL, Fauci AS, Longo DL, Hauser SL, Jameson JL, Loscalzo J, eds. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*. 19th ed. McGraw-Hill; 2015:chap 32. Accessed September 21, 2024. <http://www.harrisonsim.com/index.php>

Note:

E-books may not always contain page numbers; use the chapter or section as in this example.

Video & Audio

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.14.

Video

Format:

Creator A. *Title of Film*. Medium. Producing Organization; Production Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL

Example:

New England Osteopathic Heritage Center. *With These Hands*. Streaming Video. University of New England Media Services; 2004. Accessed October 14, 2024. <https://dune.une.edu/withthesehands/>

Podcast

Format:

Creator A. *Title of episode*. Title of Podcast. Podcast. Production Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL

Example:

Gandhi, M. #481 prediabetes and diabetes prevention with Dr. Scott Isaacs. The Curbsiders Internal Medicine. Podcast. April 28, 2025. Accessed May 16, 2025. <https://thecurbsiders.com/curbsiders-podcast/481-prediabetes-and-diabetes-prevention-with-dr-scott-isaacs>

Figures & Images

For guidance on including images, tables or figures of your own creation, see the [AMA Manual of Style: Tables, Figures and Multimedia](#)

CITING FROM ANOTHER SOURCE

An image or figure is generally given a title to which you can attach a citation as you would a quote, including superscript number that refers to the source in the reference list. A title might already exist for it from the original source, or you can provide a brief description. The title or description can either be above or below the image. Format the citation in the reference list as either an article, a book, a website, depending on where the image came from.

Example

Format:

Creator A. Title. Source. Published Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL

Example:

Haggström M. Liver (transparent). Wikimedia Commons. October 2, 2010. Accessed August 3, 2024. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liver_\(transparent\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liver_(transparent).png)

Webpages

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.15.3.

Example

Format:

Author, A. Title of webpage. Name of Website. Date Published. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL

Example:

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Managing Diabetes. National Institute of Health. 2023. Accessed January 2, 2025. <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/managing-diabetes>

AI

See the [AMA Manual of Style](#): chapter 3.15.13 for guidance on use of AI large language models or chatbots. In general these references should be included in the text of your document, but not in your reference list.

When AI is used in a study, authors should specify which tool was used, what prompts were given, and how the generated content was incorporated into your work.

See also the [AMA Manual of Style: Ethical and Legal Considerations](#) section 5.1.12.

Other Source Types

CLASS MATERIALS

Treat class materials such as class handouts and slides, notes or statements from your professor as personal communications and refer to the [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.13.10

- If documentation can be provided, references to class materials or emails can be included in the text. Do not include in the reference list.
- Class materials are frequently adapted from another source. Locate and cite the original source, if possible.
- Oral communications need to be supported in writing.
- Provide the date of the communication and how it was documented.
- Include academic credentials to establish relevance and authority to the statement.

Examples:

In a lecture on February 23, 2025, Mei Cao, PhD, told students...(PDF lecture notes).

As shown in the scatter plot graph distributed by H. E. Hernandez, MD (class handout, November 15, 2024).

"In Osteopathic Medicine, our hands are both diagnostic tools and therapeutic instruments." (F. O'Donnell, PhD, Human Anatomy class slides, May 1, 2024).

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Do not include personal communications such as letters, emails, or verbal statements in a reference list.
- If documentation can be provided to support statements from personal communications, they can be included in the text.
- Oral communications need to be supported in writing.
- Provide the date of the communication and how it was documented.
- Include the author's academic credentials to establish relevance and authority to their statement.

Examples:

- According to a letter from E. L. Mendoza, MD, in August 2024 ...
- Similar findings have been noted by Roberts⁶ and by E. L. Mendoza, MD (email, August 15, 2024).
- According to the manufacturer (A. P. Mehta, PhD, Merck, written communication, May 1, 2025), the drug became available in Japan in January 2014.

LEGAL CASES

For U.S. Legal References, see [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.16.

Examples:

Format:

First Party v Second Party, Volume number First page number, pages used (Year of decision).

Example:

Trump v CASA, Inc. et al., 606 US 2, 5 (2025).

Because legal citations are complex, the AMA refers writers to the latest edition of [The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation](#).

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

See [AMA Manual of Style: References](#) section 3.6.

Include an in-text citation whenever you paraphrase, summarize or quote the ideas of another author. An in-text citation consists of a superscript number (¹) in the text, which corresponds to an entry in a references section at the end of the paper. Use the same superscript number each time you refer to that source.

- Cite each reference in text, figures, tables, or boxes in the order first cited.
- Place superscript numbers after a comma or period, but before a semicolon or colon.

Example: The two largest studies to date included 26 patients² and 18 patients.³

Special Cases

QUESTIONS & HELP

If you have questions on this, or another topic, [contact a librarian for help!](#)