

AMA Paper Format Template

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## AMA Paper Format

### Introduction

The American Medical Association (AMA) referencing style is a common technique of formatting scientific research articles in medicine and other associated fields. AMA provides a variety of formatting guidelines that allow for some consistency in scientific writing. Also, it maintains clarity in communication through defining formats for the presentation of scientific findings. This brief discussion highlights the general AMA style regulations and its differences when compared with the American Psychological Association (APA), Modern Language Association (MLA), Chicago, and Harvard referencing formats.

### General Rules for AMA Style

#### Title Page

- The title page consists of the paper's title, names of the authors, contact information, and university affiliations.
- Centering the authors' information and the title is a common practice.

#### In-text Citations

- Citations appear as superscript Arabic numerals immediately after the concept or quotation of interest.
- Superscript numerals correspond to sources in the bibliography.
- The placement of the superscript numeral can either be after commas and periods or before semicolons and colons.
- Spaces do not precede superscript numbers.
- If a single location has two or more sources, they are separated by a hyphen for a closed series or a comma for non-consecutive sources, for example:

Recent studies<sup>1-3</sup> provide evidence that . . .

Peters<sup>3</sup> reported an increase in the locust population.

The two largest cohort studies<sup>1,2</sup> had similar results.

The council made five recommendations<sup>2</sup>:

According to the survey,<sup>1</sup> there is no significant development.

## **Bibliography**

- It occupies a separate page at the end of the essay.
- The title, “Reference List,” is at the top of the page with a central placement.
- Bibliography entries follow numeric arrangement.
- The Arabic numeral corresponding to an in-text citation is the first element of any bibliography.
- There is no indentation of the reference entries.
- The listing of all authors' names occurs for articles with up to six authors, as shown below.

One author: Peters KL.

Two authors: Peters KL, Jack TH.

Organization: Kaiser Health Group.

Six authors: Peters JF, Jacks JP III, Brunty RT Jr, Frost JT Sr, Poe KL, van Voe EA.

Seven or more authors: Peters JF, Jacks JP III, Brunty RT Jr, et al.

## **Comparison with Other Formatting Styles**

### **APA**

The APA style has three main differences when compared with AMA. Firstly, the in-text citation format of the APA style relies on the use of parentheses, which enclose the authors' surnames and the publication year of the source. The parenthetical citations allow for a maximum of five authors' surnames, which can be quite distracting in papers with heavy in-text citations. Secondly, the alphabetical arrangement of the reference entries is a notable dissimilarity between APA and AMA. The inconvenience of the alphabetical arrangement arises when an author's name appears as the first author in several sources because the reader must confirm the name of the second author or the publication year.

### **MLA**

In-text citation and title page format are aspects of the MLA that do not agree with AMA conventions. In the MLA style, in-text citation consists of the author's last name and a page number. This approach to citation is reader-friendly because the highest number of authors in an in-text citation cannot exceed two. The lack of a title page is a readily observable difference in the MLA style that distinguishes it from AMA. Moreover, the bibliography list has a distinct title, "Works Cited," and employs an alphabetic arrangement of entries.

### **Chicago**

The Chicago reference style uses footnotes and a bibliography for citation purposes, and its title page is quite peculiar. In-text citations in both Chicago and AMA are superscript Arabic numerals. The superscript numerals in Chicago style correspond to footnotes while AMA's in-text citation superscript numbers are identical to the numbering of the reference list entries. Besides, the styling of the title page in Chicago format requires the capitalization of the title, which is not a rule for AMA title page formatting.

### **Harvard**

There are some similarities in the Harvard style reference page despite the parenthetical citation. The Harvard style dictates that the bibliography page must have the title, “Reference List,” which is similar to the titling specifications of the AMA bibliography page. Additionally, the abbreviations of middle and first names do not have periods in AMA and Harvard style. However, the Harvard style’s in-text citations provide author names and publication dates.

### **Conclusion**

The use of superscript numerals that correspond to reference list entries is the most outstanding feature of the AMA style. AMA has some similarities with the Chicago and Harvard referencing styles, although the disparities in styling are dominant. Mastery of the AMA guidelines demands a significant amount of practice. The eleventh edition of the *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors* provides comprehensive explanations concerning the AMA style.

## Reference List

1. Jonas P, Coles S. A new approach for behavioral therapy and implications for the treatment of ADHD children. *J Paediatr Ment Health*. 2017 Sep 12; 4 (19): 503-520.
2. Yale University. ScienceReports. <http://www.sciencereports.com/publication/2015/11/1950>. Published June 7, 2014. Accessed June 2, 2020.
3. Peters KL. *Mental Health: A Nurse's Perspective*. Boston, MA: Simeon & Sons; 2020.