

**AMA- Research Documentation
American Medical Association**

The Title Page

On title page, include title, author, author contact info, university affiliation, and a word count for text only, exclusive of title, abstract, references, tables, and figure legends. (Title pages may differ depending on whether the author is using a structured or unstructured abstract.)

The Abstract (See AMA pp. 20-23)

Generally speaking, an unstructured abstract should include the objective, methods, results and conclusions and should not exceed 300 words. The specific journal being targeted may have its own instructions for authors, and it should be consulted for any structured abstract. Structured abstracts are recommended for original research reports, with recommended subheadings to include: a context statement which explains the importance of the objective, the objective, the design, the setting, patients or other participants, interventions, main outcome measure, and results.

The Content/Body (See AMA p. 25)

Double space manuscript and leave right margins left-justified. One inch margins are required around the text. Ten or twelve point font, no requirement for typeface. A *serif* typeface is commonly used in publication (eg. Times Roman). A *sans serif* typeface is then used with tables and figures. Half inch indents are standard.

Headings (See AMA p. 26)

Headings help the reader follow the sequence of ideas, and divide the text into more readable sections. Three levels usually serve. Additional levels can be added by following the second and third levels with the heading and the same format in italics. Three styles of capitalization are used with headings.

Tables and Figures (See AMA pp. 81-124)

AMA has very specific rules for visuals and tabulated data. For information regarding the design and the proper citation of tables, figures, or any other visual elements in your paper, refer to chapter four, page 81-124 in the AMA style guide, tenth edition. Additionally, if submitting to a journal, check with individual publishers and publications for specific styles of headings.

Rules for Reference List

NOTE:

Reference List Examples

Below are the basic formats and examples of sources often used in research papers.

Books (See AMA p.52-56)

Print

1. Debo, A. *The American H.D.* Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 2012.

Online

1. Herzog, H. *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat.* New York, NY: Harper; 2010.
<http://www.amazon.com/> Accessed October 23, 2013.

Chapter in a Book

1. Zwemer K. Clinical practice: Neurologic physical therapy. In: Scott R, ed. *Foundations of Physical Therapy: A 21st Century Focused View.* 1st ed. New York, NY. McGraw-HillAppleton & Lange; 2001: 93-102.
2. Brukner P, Khan K, Kemp J, Crossley K, Schache A, Pritchard M. Hip-related pain. In: Brukner P, Khan K, eds. *Clinical Sports Medicine.* 4th ed. North Ryde NSW, Australia: McGraw-Hill Australia; 2012:518.

Chapter Authored by Book's Editor

1. Riegelman RK. Chapter 11: Meta-analysis. In: Riegelman RK, ed. *Studying a Study and Testing a Test: How to Read the Medical Evidence.* 5th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005:99-115.

Journal Articles (See AMA p.47-52, p.60)

One Author

1. Hudson D. A comparison of ultrasound to goniometric and inclinometer measurements of torsion in the tibia and femur. *Gait Posture.* 2008; 28: 708-710.

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2. Watson, T, McPherson, S. Getting off the mat: lumbar stabilization training in standing using ultrasound
imagine.

2. Western Carolina University. *20/20 Vision Focusing Our Future*. Cullowhee, NC: Western Carolina University; October 2012. Retrieved from http://www.wcu.edu/WebFiles/PDFs/Strategic_Plan_2020.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2013

Pamphlets

1. *Protect Your Friends and Family from Tuberculosis*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources; 2005.

Legal Matters

Citation of Cases (See AMA Manual p. 73)

To cite a court case, use only the surnames of the first individual listed on each side, separated by a lower-case **v not** followed by a period. You should also provide the volume number and, if provided, series number of the reporter from which you obtained the court case, the official reporter abbreviation, the first page of the case and the specific pages used, and the year of the decision.

1. *School Board v Nassau City v Arline*, 480 US 273, 287 (1987).
2. *Addington v Texas*, 441 US 418, 426 (1979).

If you are referencing a decision made by the US Court of Appeals, you should also include the abbreviation of the ruling circuit court.

1. *Wilcox v United States*, 387 F2d 60 (5th Cir 1967).
2. *Scoles v Mercy Health Corp*, 887 F Supp 765 (ED Pa 1994).

Non-Print Sources

Interviews Conducted by the Author of the Research Paper (See AMA Manual p. 61)

Please note that personal communications (including conversations, interviews, letters, etc.) are not listed with the references. In-text references should include the type of correspondence, the name of the second party, and the month and year of correspondence. This may be done as follows:

In a conversation with H. E. Marman, MD (August 2005)^í

According to a letter from H. E. Marman, MD, in August 2005^í

Similar findings have been noted by Roberts⁶ and by H. E. Marman, MD (written communication, August 2006)^í

Audiotapes, Videotapes, DVDs (See AMA p.62)

1. Diener, S. (producer) & Sholder, J. (director). *The Hidden* [Motion picture]. USA: Heron Communications; 1987.
2. Ayers S. *Terrorism: Medical Response* [DVD]. Edgartown, MA: Emergency Film Group; 2002.

Transcript of Television and Radio Programs (See AMA p.62)

1. 'Nothing Gold' stays long in Appalachia. [Radio broadcast]. *Weekend Edition Saturday*. National Public Radio. February 16, 2013.
2. Shutting out Tourette's syndrome [transcript]. *60 Minutes*. CBS television. January 17, 2005.

Items Presented at a Meeting but Not Yet Published (See AMA p.60)

- 1.

Electronic Copy of a Journal Article Retrieved from a Database (See AMA p.70)

1. Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. Year; vol(issue No.):inclusive pages. <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/158/2/106>. Published date. Updated date. Accessed June 1, 2001.
2. Kitajima TS, Kawashima SA, Watanabe Y. The conserved kinetochore protein shugoshin protects centromeric cohesion during meiosis. *Nature*. 2004;427(6974):501-517. doi:10.1038/nature02312.

Daily Newspaper Article, Electronic Version Available by Search

In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations (See AMA p.41-45)

In-Text References and Numbering

Whenever you first cite a reference within the text, use the appropriate consecutive Arabic numeral superscript. Once a citation has been assigned an Arabic numeral, it keeps the same numeral whenever it appears in text again.

Place the superscript outside of periods and commas but inside

Plagiarism (See AMA Manual p. 158)

Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of someone else's as one's own in any academic exercise. Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism can result in an "F" in the course and/or expulsion from the University as well as other financial sanctions. WCU's Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.wcu.edu>), the Western Carolina University Code of Student Conduct (http://www.wcu.edu/WebFiles/PDFs/WCU_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf), and your instructor's syllabus outline the reporting and resolution process, and the various sanctions for plagiarism.