Navigating AMA Style

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View from the Pinnacle

Cumberland Gap National Park
Cumberland Falls
Cumberland Falls State Park, Kentucky
Recommended pamphlet

- The following is the most complete pamphlet on AMA style that I have found:
- [http://www.docstyles.com/amastat.htm](http://www.docstyles.com/amastat.htm)
What is AMA Style?

• Governed by the American Medical Association
• Exclusively used in the medical field
• Of the major citation styles, it has the largest manual (over 1,000 pgs.)
Confusion and consternation

- AMA style is a guide for submitting an article for publication—far more than a style manual or a guide to citations
- Bears similarity to ICJME “Vancouver” style with several differences
- Each journal has its own guidelines, but many will accept ICJME style and then reformat
Important Reminders!

• Always follow instructions in the syllabus first!
• If your professor wants something done in a certain way, then follow that advice
• Consistency is paramount!
• Sometimes, one will have to improvise; no guidelines can cover every possibility
AMA Distinctive Features

• Uses in-text superscript numbers
• Reference list is ordered by number
• Endnotes can be used, generally to further elaborate on a specific issue or citation
• Do not use footnotes
• Journal names are abbreviated
• Use standard 8.5”x11” paper
• 1” margins
• 10-12 point serif type (eg, Times New Roman)
• Half inch indents
AMA Basics ctd.

- Number pages consecutively from title page—top right corner
- Use a short header on top left corner of pages
- Use active voice
Sections of an AMA paper

Four basic sections:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Text
- References
AMA Title Page

• No clear formatting guidelines from AMA
• Be sure to include:
  • Title
  • Author’s name
  • Degrees (above Bachelor’s)
  • Email address
  • Institutional affiliation
AMA Abstract Page

- Look at p. 4 of the handout
- Usually limited to 250 words (one page)
- Four sections:
  - Introduction (implied—don’t write out)
  - Method (Design, setting and participants)
  - Results
  - Discussion (Conclusions)
- IMRAD format is widely accepted via ICMJE
AMA Text Sections

- Broadly speaking, the text of an AMA paper should have four sections:
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Discussion
AMA Headings

• AMA isn’t specific about headings
• Look at p.6 in handout. This follows APA and Chicago styles and is a good recommendation to follow
• Remember, consistency is paramount
AMA In-text Citations

- AMA in-text citations utilize superscript numbers
- Number consecutively by the first time introduced
- The superscript number goes after a comma or period, but before a colon or semicolon
- Example:

  Jones reported the results.\(^1\)
  Jones reported other results\(^2\); he found the method.
AMA in-text citations ctd

• **You can cite more than one source:**
  Jones reported differently than older reviews.\(^1,2,4\)
  Jones\(^1\) reported on several studies.\(^3-5\)

• **If you want to cite a source again, use the original number:**
  Jones studied the merits of a drug.\(^1(p39),4\)

• **References do not have to be at the end of a sentence:**
  Jones\(^2\) reported that Max\(^3\) researched a variety of methods.
AMA in-text citations ctd

• AMA allows you to specify a page number(s) in the citation when appropriate:
  • Jones studied a method.\textsuperscript{2(p34)}

• You can cite multiple sources this way:
  • Jones studied two methods.\textsuperscript{3(p47),4(p19)}

• When citing a work a second (or more) time, you must put a page number after the source number.
Text: Quotations

• If the quote’s length is fewer than four lines of text, use quotation marks in the standard text.
• If more than four lines, use a block quote.
  • Reduce the font size
  • Indent the entire quote a half inch
  • No additional indent on first line unless in original
  • Single space
In-text authors

- Only use the author’s last name
- Name up to two surnames:
  - Max argued that...
  - Max and Hogan argued that...
- For sources with more than two authors use:
  - Jones et al observed...
  - Jones and colleagues noted...
  - Jones and associates argued...
News & Non-retrievable Sources

- **In-text citations can be used for certain sources:**
  - Personal correspondence or other types of sources that someone would not be able to locate
  - News articles---newspapers, opinion pieces

- **Example:**
  
Reference List

- Ordered by the number where the citation first appeared in the text
- Crucial parts to include:
  - Authors/editors—list up to six; if more, list the first 3 authors, then add et al
  - Author’s name: Smith JK --comma after the initials, not the last name; only period is after all authors.
  - Smith JK, Hogan M. Physician assistants...
Reference List

- **Crucial parts:**
  - Title
    - Book titles are capitalized and italicized
    - Article titles are not capitalized
Reference List

• Crucial parts:
  • Journal names are abbreviated and italicized:
    • You must use the abbreviation, not the full name
    • Consult NLM for the correct abbreviation
    • Example: JAMA, Ann Intern Med
    • Also, look up the citation in PubMed; the journal will be abbreviated - recommended!
Reference List

- Crucial parts:
- Specify the volume number; the issue number is optional, but I’d recommend using it
- City and state:
  - Charlotte, NC
  - Berlin, Germany
  - London, UK
Reference List

• Crucial parts:
• Use full page numbers: 1136-1142
• Use a specific, not general, URL
• AMA URL format:
  • You must use accessed date, but published and updated dates are not required if no information is given
DOI Number

- Digital Object Identifier
- You must include it for articles that have one
- Example:
Examples
Journal and online serial


Plagiarism

• Four types:
  • Direct plagiarism --- lifting exact text
  • Mosaic --- borrowed ideas, opinions, phrases
  • Paraphrase --- summarizing of the text
  • Insufficient acknowledgement --- not giving full credit for all ideas

• When in doubt, cite the source!

Citation Managers

- We do not offer access to paid bibliographic managers such as RefWorks or EndNote
- Mendeley and Zotero are available for free
- Using one is highly recommended
- Ease of tracking citations and reducing work
- Always check the citation!
Mendeley

- Offers free desktop and mobile versions
- Features ability to create folders
- Display in AMA format
- Download browser plugin
- Download the MS Word plugin
- Can use for in-text citations, reference lists, and bibliographies
- Let’s take a live look
Zotero

- Desktop (stand alone) or web access
- Mobile version only available through a third party app—recommend Papership-altmetrics
- Download plugin for Chrome, IE; historically has partnered with Firefox
- Download add-in for MS Word
- Must download separate plugin for AMA
- Let’s take a live look
Copyright
Some points

• **What can you do?**
  • Make a copy of an article or chapter for your private research or study
  • Request an article via interlibrary loan

• **What can’t you do?**
  • Make copies of an article for a friend
  • Copy excessive amounts of a book
  • Commercial purposes
  • Post a copy on a website
Fair Use
US Copyright Office: http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html

- Law is deliberately vague
- Four points:
  1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
  2. The nature of the copyrighted work
  3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
  4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for, or value of, the copyrighted work
Public Domain

http://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/publicdomain.cfm

- Means that you can freely copy, adapt, and access these works
- Generally works written prior to 1923 are in the public domain
- You still need to cite works in public domain, only your ability to transmit and adapt them changes
Questions?

Feel free to contact me anytime:

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