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Ama Style Guide (Quick Study Academic)

AMA Style Guide
A must-have guide for anyone involved in medical and scientific writing

What is AMA Style?
An editorial style developed by the American Medical Association (AMA) for the preparation of manuscripts that are submitted to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

PREPARING AN ARTICLE FOR PUBLISHING

Titles & Subtitles

- Keep titles and subtitles concise, clear, and specific.
 - Avoid:** Break Details and Features
 - Use:** Factors Contributing to Health Deficits
- Avoid too much detail.
 - Avoid:** The Effects of Carbohydrate Intake on Blood Sugar in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes
 - Use:** Carbohydrate Intake and Patients with Diabetes
- Avoid phrases such as effects of, use of, treatment of, and role of, in these titles when possible.
 - Avoid:** The Use of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors on Patients with Major Depressive Disorder
 - Use:** Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors and Patients with Major Depressive Disorder
- The subtitle supports the title but does not serve as an extension of the title.
 - Avoid:** Psychiatric Disorders: Exploring Racial Differences
 - Use:** Racial Differences in Hospitalization Rates for Psychiatric Disorders
- Avoid using acronyms in titles and subtitles.
 - Avoid:** Breast Cell Carcinoma in Common in Patients with a History of Substance
 - Use:** Prevalence of Breast-Cell Carcinoma in Patients
- Use double quotation marks in titles and subtitles, not single quotation marks.
 - Avoid:** The "Six Rights" of Medication Management
 - Use:** The "Six Rights" of Medication Management
- Spell out numbers at the beginning of titles and subtitles unless they begin with specific years.
 - Avoid:** 55 Years of Nursing History: 1920 to 1975
 - Use:** Fifty-Five Years of Nursing History: 1920 to 1975
- Spell out ordinals five through ninth.
 - Avoid:** The 3rd Clinical Trial Results
 - Use:** The Third Clinical Trial Results

Parts of a Manuscript

Use headings and subheadings to break up text and organize information in a logical progression. Avoid abbreviations and citing references, figures, or tables in headings and subheadings. Maintain a consistent style and typeface for each level.

- Abstracts should summarize the main points of an article and include the objective, methods, results, and conclusions of a study.
- Appendixes are materials added to an article after it has been published or accepted for publication. An appendix may be incorporated directly into the text or at the very end of the article.
- Acknowledgments are located between the body of the text and the references. They contain information about the publisher, contributors, financial disclosure, funding/support, sponsors, and disclosures.

Ethical & Legal Considerations

- Use ethical practices when preparing materials for publication. Medical and scientific content is often regulated by ethical and legal standards.
- Authorship:** The names of people who participate in the creation of a document, theory, idea, or study who have the right to take public responsibility for their contribution. Names of authors and contributors must be noted in the publication.
- Acknowledgments:** Information that is listed about funding, grants, sponsors, donors, and anyone who makes intellectual contributions but are not considered "authors" (i.e., data analysis assistance).
- Do avoid conflicts of interest; authors must disclose their financial interests and relationships (e.g., if they receive funding from pharmaceutical companies or research centers). Personal relationships may also need to be disclosed.
- Confidentiality must be protected in published work. Personal identifiers (i.e., names, dates of birth) of case study or clinical research participants must never be used without authorization from the individuals. Patients have rights to anonymity and privacy.
- Copyright:** Published materials may be subject to copyright laws. Intellectual property, such as data or the theories and findings of researchers, is protected under copyright laws. Authors and editors may need to obtain the rights to publish materials that are copyrighted.
- Use scientific language when referring to individuals who have diseases or disorders (i.e., do not call an individual by their disease).
 - Avoid:** Myocardial infarction
 - Use:** Myocardial infarction
- To uphold ethical and legal standards, avoid:
 - Plagiarism
 - Conflicts of interest
 - Confidentiality breaches
 - Discrimination, harassment, or fabrication of references from data

STYLE & USAGE

Consistent typographic style

- Use serif type (e.g., Times New Roman) for body text
- Use sans serif type (e.g., Arial) for titles and headings
- Use boldface for headings or (optionally) when calling attention to references in a list.
 - EX:** Prevalence and incidence data are shown in Figure 2.
- Use italics for non-English words, however, no italics are used for words or phrases that are part of the English language.
 - EX:** The parents were not opposed to trying to solve.
- Use italics for genus and species names in singular form. Do not italicize genus and species names in plural form.
 - EX:** *Streptococcus*
 - EX:** *Streptococci*
- In measurements, use italics for fractional letters that are set in parentheses.
 - EX:** The list of factors in the survey included: (a) height, (b) weight, and (c) body mass index.
- Use italics for chemical prefixes and mathematical expressions.
 - EX:** *n* acetylglucosamine
 - EX:** *sin* α - *alk*
- Use italics when referring to units systems in a sentence.
 - EX:** The technical name for the cuff used to measure blood pressure is sphygmomanometer.

Commas

- Commas indicate pauses in a sentence. They are used to separate thoughts and list items in a series.
- Use commas:
 - To separate groups of words and phrases
 - After dependent clauses that open a sentence



Synopsis

Quick reference for the writing style guidelines from the American Medical Association for the medical sciences community. The need-to-know essentials of the guidelines in 6 laminated pages, designed for quick access and durability. Suggested uses: oStudents â “ handy reference while writing papers where AMA is the required or suggested style oProfessors â “ require students to write in AMA Style to prepare for a future in the science or medical sciences field oAuthors/Editors â “ reference while writing or editing pieces to be published in the science or medical science fields

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