A reference style is a set of rules that tell you what information to include in a citation (author names, title, year of publication, etc.) and how to present this information (the order; using bold, italics, etc.)

No one innately knows AMA Style—you have to learn it. If this guide doesn’t answer your question, check out the guide at http://norris.usc.libguides.com/ama_style, read the AMA Manual online or at the Norris Medical Library Reference section, or contact Pharmacy liaison librarian Amy Chatfield at amychatf@usc.edu

Overall rules for all references
- Many sources provide a “suggested citation style.” There is no guarantee that this is AMA Style. Check any suggested citations.
- Authors: List their last name and the initials of their first and middle names. Separate author names with commas. Do not use periods between initials. If there are one to six authors, list all authors. If there are seven or more authors, list the first three and then abbreviate with et al.
- Editors: follow the same rules as authors for formatting and determining how many editors to list. After the list of editor names, include “ed.” (if one editor) or “eds.” (for two or more).
- Items without authors or editors: begin the citation with the title of the item.
- Omit dates for online items that do not include a publication or update date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
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| Use print format for articles you read in print. Use the online format for articles you read online. | 3 authors, read in print  
Same article, read online, no DOI available  
| Print Journal Article        | 10 authors, read in print  
2 authors, read online, no page numbers, with DOI  
| Online Journal Article       | Entire book                                                              |
| Author AA. Title of article. Abbreviated Title of Journal. Year of publication;volume(issue):complete page numbers.  
If DOI is not available, use this format:  
Author AA. Title of article. Abbreviated Title of Journal. Year of publication;volume(issue):page numbers or article number. URL of page where you accessed the article. Published date. Updated date. Accessed date. | 1 author  
8 editors  
| Chapter in an edited book     | Chapter has 2 authors, book has 3 editors  
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</tr>
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</table>
Using citations in your writing and creating the reference list

A reference style is a set of rules that tell you what information to include in a citation (such as author names, titles of books, years of publication, etc.) and how to present this information (the order in which to list information; using bold, italic, or underlined text). No one innately knows AMA Style—you have to learn it.

If this guide doesn’t answer your question, check out the more lengthy guide at http://norris.usc.libguides.com/ama_style, read the Manual online or at the Norris Medical Library Reference section, or contact Pharmacy liaison librarian Amy Chatfield at amychatf@usc.edu.

Citing within the text

- All information is cited using superscript numerals. Insert a 1 into the document immediately next to the first fact, concept, graph, or quotation being cited. Insert a 2 in the document next to the next fact, concept, quotation, or graph being cited.
- If a reference is used multiple times in one document, use the same number throughout the document.
- Reference numbers appear outside periods and commas, and inside colons and semi-colons.

*Example sentence citing 3 articles:*
The faculty of the USC School of Pharmacy are active in many types of research, including Alzheimer’s disease mechanisms,1 therapeutics,2 and risk factors.3

Using author names in text

It is appropriate to use author surnames (last names) in your writing. You must always use a citation number along with the author names. To do this correctly, think about how many authors contributed to a specific item.

- For items with 1 author, list the name.
- For items with 2 authors, list both names.
- For items with 3 or more authors, include the first author’s surname and “et al” (Latin phrase meaning “the others”).

*Examples showing 1 author, 2 authors, and 5 authors:*
Dopheide4 compares paliperidone to risperdone for schizophrenia treatment. Attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder can be treated in several ways; Dopheide and Pliszka5 cover common drug classes. As corneal surgeries become more common, novel treatments to speed healing such as those proposed by Abdallah et al6 will need to be tested on humans.

Using figures, graphs, and other pictures

You may use pictures from websites, books, journals, etc., in your school work without obtaining copyright permissions. You must cite these pictures, figures, graphs, etc. Include the reference number in the legend or caption of the figure, and include in the reference list the journal, book, website, etc., where the figure was originally published.

*Example:*

![Figure 1. Structure of Albuterol.](image)


