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://guides.library.nymc.edu/ama, read the AMA Manual online or at the NYMC Health Science Library Reserve Collection.

### 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal article</td>
<td>3 authors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 authors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Online-only journal article with 2 authors, using article number and DOI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entire book</td>
<td>1 author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 editors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter in an edited book</td>
<td>Chapter has 2 authors, book has 3 editors</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Entire Online Book

Editors or authors. *Title of Book*. Edition number (only include if beyond first). City, state of publication: publisher name; year of publication. URL. Published date. Accessed date.

Use this example and the one above to construct a citation to a chapter in an online book.

### Website

Author(s). Title of the specific item cited (if none is given, use the name of the organization responsible for the site). Name of the website. URL. Published date. Updated date. Accessed date.

Note: Look carefully at a site to find the publication and update dates. If none are provided, omit. You MUST include the date you accessed the site.

### Package insert

Name of drug [package insert]. City, state abbreviation: Company Name; year of publication.

AMA does not provide rules for online/electronic package inserts. The Library recommends adding the URL, publication date, and accessed date to the package insert style.

### Drug Monographs

AMA style does not provide rules for citing drug monographs. These are suggested by the Library:

- **Print drug monographs**
  
  Author AA. Title of monograph being cited. Editor AA, ed. Title of book. Edition (if beyond first). City, State of publication: Publisher name; year of publication.

- **Online drug monographs**
  
  Title of monograph. Title of book of monographs. Title of website where book is found (only include if different than book title). URL. Published date. Updated date. Accessed date.

### Patent

Inventor names, inventor; assignee company, assignee. Title of patent. Patent issue agency and number. Date patent was granted.

### Personal communications

(phone calls, conversations, emails) are only cited parenthetically in the text. Provide the name and highest academic degree of the author, type of communication, and date sent. Remove the name and day of communication if this will compromise patient anonymity.
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.

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:* Dopheide 4 compares paliperidone to risperdone for schizophrenia treatment. Attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder can be treated in several ways; Dopheide and Pliszka 5 cover common drug classes. As corneal surgeries become more common, novel treatments to speed healing such as those proposed by Abdallah et al 6 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)
List materials in the order in which they are cited in the document.

Examples using items cited in this document: