

AMA citation quick reference

Reference patterns, the three-author rule and superscript placement, on one page. Checked against the AMA Manual of Style, 11th edition.

REFERENCE PATTERNS

Journal article
Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, et al. Title of article. *Journal Abbrev.* YYYY;12(3):100-110. doi:10.xxxx/xxxxx

Published online ahead of print
Author AA, Author BB. Title of article. *Journal Abbrev.* Published online Month DD, YYYY. doi:10.xxxx/xxxxx

Book
Author AA, Author BB. *Title of Book.* 3rd ed. Publisher; YYYY.

Chapter
Author AA. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, ed. *Title of Book.* 3rd ed. Publisher; YYYY:100-125.

Website
Author AA. Title of page. Site Name. Published Month DD, YYYY. Accessed Month DD, YYYY. <https://example.com/page>

Report
Issuing Body. *Title of Report.* Publisher; YYYY. Report No. NNNN. Accessed Month DD, YYYY. <https://example.com/report>

Package insert
Drug Name [package insert]. Manufacturer; YYYY.

Thesis
Author AA. *Title of Dissertation.* Dissertation. University Name; YYYY.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

One source	... was effective. ¹
Two separate sources	... was effective. ^{1,4}
A consecutive run	... was effective. ¹⁻³
Mixed	... was effective. ^{1,3-5}
Placement	After the comma or full stop, never before it.
With a page	... was effective. ¹ (p42)

AUTHOR NAMES

Order	Surname then initials, run together: Doudna JA.
No punctuation	No comma after the surname, no full stops inside the initials.
Up to six	Six or fewer authors: name every one of them.
Over six	Name the first three, then et al. This is the rule people get wrong most often.
Organisation	Printed in full as the author: World Health Organization.

WHAT THE 11TH EDITION CHANGED

- Books no longer carry a place of publication: publisher and year only.
- DOIs are written doi:10.xxxx with no space and no full stop after them.
- URLs end the reference and take no full stop.
- Access dates are written out: Accessed August 15, 2026.

JOURNAL ABBREVIATIONS

New England Journal of Medicine	N Engl J Med
Journal of the American Medical Association	JAMA
British Medical Journal	BMJ
Annals of Internal Medicine	Ann Intern Med
The Lancet	Lancet
Pediatrics	Pediatrics
Follow the PubMed journal list	pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

SIX MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Keeping the city in a book reference.
- Listing all seven or more authors instead of three plus et al.
- Putting full stops in author initials.
- Using title case in an article title.
- Placing the superscript before the punctuation.
- Omitting the access date for an online source.