# RES 10: AMA Quick Guide (10th Edition)

**What is AMA style?**

“AMA” is the official writing and citation style for medical and scientific researchers as recognized by the American Medical Association. It is used to ensure the production of well-organized, clear, and professional documents within the medical research field.

# Why do citations matter?

Whenever you refer to someone’s words or ideas, whether you are paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting, you have a responsibility to your readers to cite your source. If you do not cite your source’s words or information, you are plagiarizing. Whether intentional or accidental, plagiarism has consequences (see [MTSU’s definition of plagiarism](https://www.mtsu.edu/provost/academic-integrity.php)). Understanding your citation style can go a long way toward helping you write responsibly and ethically.

# What are in-text citations?

This type of citation is used when writers refer to someone else’s idea(s) through paraphrasing, summarizing, and/or quoting.

In AMA, in-text citations are formatted using superscript numerically:

* Use superscript Arabic numerals to cite your information
* Numerals will go in order of reference used
* The first reference used is written as 1 in the reference list
* If you’re citing more than one reference for a given piece of information, separate the numbers with commas
* If a reference is used more than once in a paper, use the same number to refer to that source throughout the paper.

Examples of in-text citations:

This drug is used to treat hepatitis.1



Storing latex at high heat may cause degradation, 2,3-5,7 but it is difficult to keep materials cool in a desert environment.

# Can the author’s name be used to cite in the text?

You may include the author’s *last* name to cite in your text as long as it is followed by the corresponding superscript.

* Smith 2 reports that there is a strong correlation between the strength of the immune system and the rate of growth of cancer cells.

If there are two authors, include both names.

* Jones and Heinse 5 shared the results of their research.

For three or more authors, use the name of the first author followed by ‘et al’ and the corresponding superscript.

* Hamilton et al 5 reported that temperatures between 50**°** Fahrenheit and 60**°** Fahrenheit have no effect on the growth of potatoes.

# What is a “References” page?

The References page lists the sources used in-text in numerical order of appearance. The purpose of the References page is to provide a roadmap to your sources so that other scholars or researchers can find them. This means that, as a writer, you need to provide as much information as you can about where to find a source.

On an AMA References page:

* The word “REFERENCES” should appear on the left margin in all caps.
* Entries should be listed numerically by order of appearance within the text. Each citation should be concluded with a period.
* Publication titles are put in italics while article and chapter titles are typed in usual font.
* For online sources, include a URL or DOI and provide access dates if required by instructor or publisher.

# Sample References page (journal, website, and book):

REFERENCES

1. Serlachius A, Northam E, Frydenberg E, Cameron, F. Adapting a generic coping skills programme for adolescents with type 1 diabetes: a qualitative study*. J Health Psychol.* 2012;17(3):313-323.

1. Rainie L. The rise of the e-patient. Pew Research Center Internet and the American Life Project. October 7, 2009. Accessed January 11, 2012. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2009/10/07/the-rise-of-the-e-patient-2/>

1. Riegelman RK, Kirkwood B. *Public Health 101: Healthy People--Healthy Populations.* 2nd ed. Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2015.

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