Essay Example using AMA Formatting

THE BASICS
AMA formatting was created to guide publication in AMA-sponsored journals and publications. As such, each college and university seems to customize it for their own use.

Many instructors spell out the formatting requirements for your paper. When the assignment does not provide specific formatting instructions, consult your instructor. You may be directed to use the recommended guidelines for NWACC research assignments provided in this sample essay. This information and more is also available at library.nwacc.edu/home/citation.

A Word of Warning
Do not rely on free citation generators or other sites for formatting standards or advice. Many instructors grade off the NWACC Library handouts.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS
Use Times New Roman 12 point and 1-inch margins. Single space with no added space between paragraphs. Place page numbers in the upper right corner.

Identifying Information
Line 1 is your name. Line 2 is your instructor’s name. Line 3 is your course name. Line 4 is the date the paper is due, for example: December 1, 2019. Center the title of your essay on the next line in bold type.

SECTION HEADINGS
Organize your essay using sections. Level one sections are “main sections.” Follow the outline of your assignment to name them. Level one section headings are written in all capital letters using bold type. This paragraph is in a level one section.

Level 2 Headings
If you need to sub-divide a section further, use a Level Two Heading. This makes it easier for your instructor to read your essay. Level two headings are written in title case. Title case means you capitalize the first word and other important words. This paragraph is in a level two section.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS
Cite sources in numerical order as they appear in the body of the essay. Use superscript numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.). Place them outside commas and periods, and inside semicolons and colons.¹

The first source cited will be 1; the next will be 2; and so on. When citing a source more than once, use the same number again. When citing multiple sources for a single line of text, put a comma or a dash between the numbers with no spaces around the comma or dash. See examples.
In-Text Citation Examples
1) The infection characteristically dissects vertebrae anterolaterally and produces abscesses.¹ [Source 1]
2) Genetic susceptibility to spinal tuberculosis has been demonstrated.² ⁵ [Sources 2 and 5]
3) The molecular formula of cyproheptadine is $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}$.³ ⁶ [Sources 3, 4, 5 and 6]

REFERENCE LIST
The last section should be a level one heading called REFERENCES. List sources numerically in the order they appear in the paper.

Formatting the Reference Section
Use single space for each citation. Double space between citations. There are no indentations. For web versions of traditional print sources such as ebooks, online encyclopedias, and journal articles in library databases or published online, use the format for the print source, and add the DOI or URL and the publication, update, and/or access date as the final two lines of the reference.

GETTING HELP WITH AMA CITATION AND RESEARCH
Visit the NWACC Library or see library.nwacc.edu. You can also make a 30-minute individual appointment at nwacc.libsurveys.com/consultation.

REFERENCES


