

What's New in the Sixth Edition of the Publication Manual?

Updated to acknowledge and incorporate advances in computer technology

- New discussions of the creation, submission, and storage of supplemental data
- New guidelines for referencing electronic sources
- New and expanded reference examples for a variety of online sources

Reorganized and streamlined for ease of use

- Organized to describe the writing process from idea to publication, it begins with background information on ethical issues in publishing, then moves on to manuscript structure and content, writing style and rules, graphics and references, and guidance on working with the publisher
- Sample paper section has been moved up and featured to better exemplify manuscript structure and content
- Like discussions have been moved to one place in the book, with discussions of function followed by instruction on form

Focus broadened to include the behavioral and social sciences

- New examples throughout the book have been drawn from publications in education, business, and nursing, as well as psychology

Chapter-by-Chapter Changes

Chapter 1: Writing for the Behavioral and Social Sciences

- Ethics discussion significantly expanded:
 - a. New section on data retention and sharing
 - b. New section on self-plagiarism
 - c. Expanded section on duplicate and piecemeal publication
 - d. New discussion of determining authorship, focusing on student contributions

Chapter 2: Manuscript Structure and Content

- New section on uniform standards for reporting research
- Journal article reporting standards incorporated into new discussions of abstract, methods, statistical results, and discussion
- Three modules added with standards for describing experimental manipulations
- Flow chart added to describe how subjects move through study
- New section on meta-analyses
- New section on supplemental material
- New sample papers featured that illustrate key new rules of APA style

Chapter 3: Writing Clearly and Concisely

- New heading structure established to simplify retrieval and ease reading comprehension
- Fully revised guidelines on reducing bias in language
- New section on historical and interpretive inaccuracies in language:
 - a. Use of “subjects” vs. “participants” revised, with “subjects” fully accepted for use
 - b. Gender – guidelines for avoiding bias updated (e.g., question the use of such constructions as “opposite” sex)
 - c. Definitions and preferred usage for terms “transsexual” and “transgender” updated
 - d. Race – avoid language that reifies race; avoid use of “minority” for “non-White”
 - e. New sentence added for those of Middle Eastern descent.

Chapter 4: Mechanics of Style

- Punctuation – return to two spaces after the period at the end of the sentence recommended for ease of reading comprehension
- Numbers – requirement to use numerals for numbers below 10 grouped with those above 10 has been dropped
- Numerals vs. words – exception has been added for using words when discussing approximations of days and months (e.g., about ten days)
- Decimal fractions – New guidelines for reporting of p values to two or three decimal places. (However, p values less than $p < .001$ should be reported as $p < .001$)
- Statistics in text – new guideline added to include not only statistics, but also associated effect sizes and confidence intervals
- Form for reporting confidence intervals delineated

If you are a client of this office, the myriad noncontent differences involved in the new APA edition should not be a source of concern for you with the professional support you have behind you. I will catch what you miss and, as always, am here to answer any questions you may have at any time.



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