APA Style 7th edition

Beth Transue
Messiah College, btransue@messiah.edu

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.
Summary of Changes

Murray Library
Beth M. Transue, MLS, MET
Updated April 2020
ROLLOUT TO CAMPUS - TIMELINE

- APA 7th edition print books – available from APA as of October 2019. FREE “desk review” copies available to faculty through APA website.
- APA Academic Writer (APA Style Central) anticipated rollout August 2020

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- Anticipated campus rollout of APA 7th edition is **August 2020**
- If departments require different timeline, please make librarian aware of this. Students should make librarians aware of different timeline in reference transactions.
- Faculty may wish to switch earlier for research/publications with publishers already using 7th edition. Contact your librarian for any questions about updated style.
PRINT STYLE GUIDE FEATURES

- Front and back covers provide quickguides to heading levels, in-text citations, and common reference examples
- Tabs and full-color tables and illustrations
- Detailed Table of Contents at the beginning of each chapter
**New student-centered formatting options**

- Student title page format (2.3, p30)
- Running head not required for student papers (2.8, p37)
- Annotated bibliography guidelines (9.51, p307)
- Student sample paper (p61-67)

- More information for author note (2.7, p35-36)
- Updated heading levels (2.27, p47-48)
- More flexible fonts allowed for accessibility – not just Times New Roman 12 (2.19, p44)
More extensive writing style guidelines (Chapters 4, 5, 6). Undergraduate students are also encouraged to review writing style content in *Writers Reference*.

More guidance to avoid anthropomorphism (4.11, p117)

Updated and extensive bias-free language guidance for age, disability, gender, racial and ethnic, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and intersectionality (Chapter 5, p131-149)

Grammar change to reduce bias: **Singular “they” is endorsed** (4.18 and 5.5, p120-121, p140)

4.18 “*Writers should always use the singular ‘they’ to refer to a person who uses ‘they’ as their pronoun. Also use ‘they’ as a generic third-person singular pronoun to refer to a person whose gender is unknown or irrelevant... Do not use ‘he’ or ‘she’ alone as a generic third-person pronoun. Use ‘he or she’... sparingly and ensure that these pronouns match the pronouns used by the people being described... Keep in mind that there are typically many possible ways to write a sentence. If the singular ‘they’ as a generic third-person pronoun seems awkward or distracting... rewrite the sentence*” (p.120-121)
MECHANICS OF STYLE

- Answers the age-old question: use only one space after a period. (6.1, p154)
- Expanded capitalization guidance (6.13-6.21, p165-169)
- Presentation of numbers (no exception for presenting numbers in the abstract) (6.32-6.39, p178-181)
- Greater flexibility for lettered, numbered and bulleted lists (6.49-6.52, p189-191)
TABLES AND FIGURES

- Expanded table and figure examples (Chapter 7, p196-250)
- Presentation of tables and figures is more flexible (7.4, 7.22, p197, p225)
IN TEXT CITATIONS

- All in-text citations for works with more than two authors are shortened to the name of the first author, plus “et al.” (8.17, p266)
- May omit year in repeated narrative citations within same paragraph (8.16, p265)
- New paraphrasing examples (8.23-8.24, p269-270)
- New guidance for formatting quotations from research participants (8.36, p278)
REFERENCE LIST — WHO, WHEN

- New guidance for annotated bibliographies (9.51, p307-308)
- Expanded audiovisual format examples (10.12-10.14, p341-347)
- New categories for social media (10.15-10.16, p348-352)
- Number of authors in reference entry is expanded to up to 20 authors (9.8, p286)
- Government organizations – use specific agency as author and parent agency as publisher (9.11, p288)
- Do not use the date from a website footer because that does not apply to the content of the source (9.13, p289)
- Only use retrieved date when citing material that is expected to change, such as from a wiki (9.16, p290)
REFERENCE LIST — WHAT, WHERE

- Book references omit publisher location (9.29, p295)
- Journal article references now always include issue numbers when available (9.25, p294)
- Standardization of DOI and URL formats (9.35, p299)
- Updated guidelines for DOIs and URLs for works retrieved from library databases (9.30, 10.1.3, p296-297, p317)
- Do not use URL if it would not work for others (library database or broken link). If a link is ‘broken’ use an archived version or do not use that item as a source. (9.37, p300-301)
REFERENCE EXAMPLES - ARTICLES

- Journal article with DOI (print, website or library database)

- Journal article without DOI (print or retrieved from library database)
  NOTE: Do not include database name or URL. Looks like a print version.

- Journal article without DOI (retrieved from publisher or other website)
REFERENCE EXAMPLES - BOOKS

- Book with DOI (print or ebook)
  Author, I. I. (Year). *Book title*. Publisher. https://doi.org/###

- Book without DOI (print or retrieved from library database)

- Book without DOI (retrieved from publisher or other website)
  Author, I. I. (Year). *Book title*. Publisher. URL
AV and online section is expanded with many more examples such as:
- website, film, TV, webinar, Youtube or streaming video, music album or song, podcast, artwork in museum, clip art, infographic, PPT, lecture, tweet, Facebook, blog, social media, etc.

Website:
Author. (Date). Webpage title. URL

*Use website format only when other formats do not apply. For example, if citing a report from a website, use the “Report” format instead of website format.* (9.2, p282)
AVOIDING PREDATORY PUBLISHERS

- New section in the Publication Process chapter to help authors avoid submitting research to predatory publishers (12.4, p374-376)

- Common characteristics of predatory publishers:
  - Informal solicitation
  - Hidden publisher or website
  - Lack of rigorous evaluation
  - Lack of transparency
  - Poor reputation
  - Nonstandard submission process
  - Lack of indexing in databases

- This section can be helpful to introduce this concept to students
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Ask Your Liaison Librarian
- Chat with a Librarian
- Tutorials on Academic Writer (formerly APA Style Central), available through the library website

- APA summary of changes: