

## What Do I Need to Know About the *Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.)?

### An Overview of Major and Essential Formatting Changes in APA 6

Formatting Item	6th edition (APA 6)	Ref # for APA 6	5th edition (APA 5)
References	<p>APA has significantly revised this topic. All users should familiarize themselves with the new requirements.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOI numbers.</li> <li>• Including the state for all cities of publication.</li> <li>• Optional use of first names for different authors with the same surname and the same initials.</li> <li>• Use of ellipses with authors in a work by more than seven authors.</li> </ul>	Chapter 6, Chapter 7	Chapter 3, 3.94-3.103 and chapter 4, “Reference List.”
Headings	<p>APA 6 has revamped its headings, both the formatting of the heading and the numbering of the heading.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA has eliminated the all-caps heading. (Capella dissertation style keeps the all-caps heading).</li> <li>• Four of the 5 headings use bold.</li> </ul>	3.02 and 3.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA 5 did not allow the use of bold.</li> <li>• The highest heading level was set in all caps.</li> </ul>
Bullets	<p>Bullets may be used, since</p> <p>The use of “numbered lists” may connote an unwanted or unwarranted ordinal position (e.g., chronology, importance, priority) among the items. If you wish to achieve the same effect without the implication of ordinality, items in the series should be identified with bullets. (p. 64)</p>	3.04	APA 5 did not allow the use of bullets.
Spacing between sentences	<p>APA 6 instructs: “Space twice after punctuation marks at the end of a sentence.”</p>	4.01	APA 5 indicated that writers should “space once . . . after punctuation marks at the end of sentences.”
Providing paragraph numbers for direct quotations of online material without pagination.	<p>“Use the abbreviation <i>para.</i>”</p> <p>APA 6 does not use the pilcrow (i.e., ¶ symbol).</p>	6.05	“Use the ¶ symbol or the abbreviation <i>para.</i> ”

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Basic Citation Styles	APA has added a handy “at-a-glance” table on citing work.	Table 6.1, p. 177	--
Spelling			APA 5 treated “Web” as a proper noun.
World Wide Web	APA 6 treats “web” as a common noun. Type <i>website</i> as one word.		<i>Web site</i> was two words.
Plural of <i>appendix</i>	<i>Appendices</i>		<i>Appendixes</i>

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What Else is New and Noteworthy in the 6th edition?

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New and Noteworthy Topics	APA 6 sections/page numbers
Amplified discussion on “Protecting the Rights and Welfare of Research Participants,” covering both confidentiality and conflict of interest.	1.11-1.12, pp. 16-18.
Enhanced emphasis on obtaining permission when “reproducing or adapting tables, figures, questionnaires, or test items from a copyrighted source” (p. 128).	5.06, 6.10, 8.04
New discussion of historical and interpretive inaccuracies	3.17
New ethical compliance discussion	1.16, p. 20.
Return to the term “subject” for research subject	“Guideline 3: Acknowledge Participation,” p. 73.
Self-plagiarism	6.02
Supplemental materials	2.13, 8.03
Updated discussion on race and ethnicity	3.14
Updated guidelines on gender	3.12
Updated guidelines on sexual orientation	3.13
Version of record	6.24
Supplements to the <i>Manual</i> housed at APA Style	<a href="http://www.apastyle.org/manual/supplement/index.aspx">http://www.apastyle.org/manual/supplement/index.aspx</a>

*Note:* APA has a two-page download titled “What’s New in the Sixth Edition of the Publication Manual?” available at <http://www.apastyle.org/manual/whats-new.aspx>

The APA Style Blog (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/>) will house errata and corrections.