

AMA Manual of Style

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Apologetic Quotation Marks

Cheryl Iverson

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Quotation marks are sometimes used around words for special effect or to indicate irony. In most instances, however, they are unnecessary. Using their own finances and being informed about the economics of the approach, some may opt for the “boutique class” of health care.

Apostrophe

Cheryl Iverson, Stacy Christiansen, Annette Flanagan, Phil B. Fontanarosa, Richard M. Glass, Brenda Gregoline, Stephen J. Lurie, Harriet S. Meyer, Margaret A. Winker, and Roxanne K. Young

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Appealing a Rejection

Richard M. Glass

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If a paper is rejected, authors occasionally ask for reconsideration, usually because they believe the reviewers or the editor have misjudged the importance and quality of the submission. This situation can be viewed in 2 different ways. On the one hand, peer review and editorial decisions are based on fallible human judgments. Mistakes can be made, so perhaps the rejected manuscript merits reconsideration. On the other hand, heeding appeals for reconsideration may fulfill the adage “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.” Reconsideration of papers solely on the basis of author complaints could be unfair to authors who have equally legitimate

Appendixes

Cheryl Iverson

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Some journals publish appendixes, at least occasionally, for material that might be considered ancillary to the content of the article itself (eg, derivation of a complex formula used in the article, a survey instrument used in a study, statistical modeling details).

JAMA and the Archives Journals generally do not use appendixes. If these are worthy of publication because they contain important information, they could be considered for online-only publication (see , Online-Only [Supplementary] Material). On rare occasions, however, they serve a useful purpose for data that cannot easily be presented as a table or a figure and are too central

Articles

Roxanne K. Young

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The article a is used before the aspirate h (eg, a historic occasion) and nonvocalic y (eg, a ubiquitous organism). Abbreviations and acronyms are preceded by a or an according to the sound following (eg, a UN resolution, an HMO plan). (See also , Abbreviations, Agencies and Organizations.)

Articles of Opinion

Richard M. Glass

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Editorials are short essays that usually reflect the views of the editor or the policies of the journal. Editorials may be written by the editor, a member of the editorial staff or editorial board, or an invited author. Editorials may comment on an article in the same issue of the journal, providing additional context and opinion regarding its implications, or may deal with a separate topic of interest to the journal's readers or editors. In the past, it was common for authors of medical journal editorials not to be identified, as is still the usual practice for newspaper editorials. This

Assessment Criteria

Richard M. Glass

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Two major criteria are central to the evaluation of manuscripts submitted for publication: importance and quality. Importance involves an assessment of whether the work • Represents a scientific advance (recognizing that individual articles usually convey only small advances)• Has clinical relevance (if the journal is to be read and the information used by practicing clinicians)• Presents new information• Will be of interest to readersAn additional component of importance is editorial priority, a composite judgment made by the editor regarding the value of a particular submission relative to other submissions under evaluation at the same time, weighed in the context of

Audiotapes, Videotapes, DVDs (Digital Video Disks)

Cheryl Iverson

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Author Affiliations

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Author Contributions

Annette Flanagan

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