

# AMA Manual of Style

You are looking at 1-1 of 1 items for: **med-9780195176339-div2-295**

## Colon

Cheryl Iverson

Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: eISBN:

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.022.340

Item type: section

The colon is the strongest of the 3 marks used to indicate a decided pause or break in thought. It separates 2 main clauses in which the second clause amplifies or explains the first. This dictum is often believed to be in the Hippocratic Oath: First, do no harm. Do not use a colon if the sentence is continuous without it. You will need enthusiasm, organization, and a commitment to your beliefs. Not: You will need: enthusiasm, organization, and a commitment to your beliefs. Avoid using a colon to separate a preposition from its object or to separate a verb (including to