

T A B L E 3

Contrasting the Styles of Four Major Publication Manuals

Style Guide	Industries in which Used	Examples of Basic Differences
The Associated Press Stylebook (AP), 2004 ed.	newspapers, magazines, and other periodical literature	comma in a series: The U. S. flag is red, white and blue. use of ellipsis: "spaces ... around" citations: briefly mentioned once, in the context of being within a sentence (called an <i>attribution</i>)
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Assn. (APA), 4th ed.	journals, dissertations, and theses primarily in the sciences; the U. S. Government Printing Office	comma in a series: The U. S. flag is red, white, and blue. use of ellipsis: "spaces ... around" citations: 52 pages contain detailed instructions and examples (listed as <i>Reference citations in text</i> , though most citations are placed at the end of a publication)
The Chicago Manual of Style (CMS), 15th ed.	books and other longer works, particularly within the humanities and arts	comma in a series: The U. S. flag is red, white, and blue. use of ellipsis: "spaces . . . around and between" citations: 479 sections in two chaps. plus 9 sectional cross-references, all with detailed instructions, plus 16 figures (listed as <i>documentation</i>)
Modern Language Assn. (MLA) Style Manual, 6th ed.	scholarly research and other academic publications, particularly within the studies of language and literature	comma in a series: The U. S. flag is red, white, and blue. use of ellipsis: "no spaces[. . .]before or after, only between"—and add the brackets to indicate removed material (in case there might be an ellipsis in the quotation) citations: 22 sections of detailed instructions and examples (listed as <i>parenthetical documentation</i>)

This table shows four of the primary editorial style guides along with a broad interpretation of the industries in which they are generally used and a few examples of some basic differences. The table is intended only to show that there exist differences between the publishing guidelines. Knowledge of these differences will help communicators to establish their own style parameters prior to beginning a written project.

Right Line Editing & Design:
Present your message with clarity and style.