APA Editor

You are in the process of interviewing for your dream job! Your favorite nursing journal has just announced that they have an opening for a “Chief Nurse Editor” which is a brand new position. After years of non-nurses as editors, the publisher has realized that having a nurse in this position will bring the already sterling publication to an even higher level. One of the criteria for the position is that the nurse editor be strong in his or her APA skills. You feel good about this as you have always been a stickler for format, even as an undergraduate student. When others were paying to have their papers typed, you trusted only yourself to make sure it was in the correct APA format.

However, you know this won’t be a simple interview with the publisher or managing editor. Surely you will be required to demonstrate your skill and knowledge in some way. Sure enough, the interview goes smoothly; after all, your qualifications are impeccable. Then you are told that there is one more thing; all applicants for this position are required to demonstrate their skills in editing with APA. So far, you are told, nobody has been able to complete the assignment satisfactorily. If you are successful, the position is yours!

Here goes! Your assignment is posted online and if you nail it, you celebrate tonight!

You are provided excerpts from a couple of research papers to evaluate. First you choose to review references:

This one catches your attention:

Benincasa, Thomas., King, Ed., Rimer, Ben., Bloom, Helen., Balshem, Ann., James, J., & Engstrom, P. (1996). Results of an office-based training program in clinical breast examination for Primary Care Physicians. *Journal of Cancer Education*, *11*(1), pp.25-31.

Tab 1 Indentation and line spacing: Determine the correct format for indentation and line spacing.

Benincasa, Thomas., King, Ed., Rimer, Ben., Bloom, Helen., Balshem, Ann., James, J., & Engstrom, P. (1996). Results of an office-based training program in clinical breast examination for Primary Care Physicians. *Journal of Cancer Education*, *11*(1), pp.25-31.

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examination for Primary Care Physicians. *Journal of Cancer Education*, *11*(1), pp.25-31.

This is correct for indention and spacing because APA required double spaced with first line indented 5-7 spaces.

2. Author Tab: Determine the correct format for the author attribution.

Benincasa, Thomas, King, Ed, Rimer, Ben, Bloom, Helen, Balshem, Ann, James, J., &

Engstrom, P.

Benincasa, T., King, E., Rimer, B., Bloom, H., Balshem, A., James, J., & Engstrom, P.

This is correct. APA format calls for last name, followed by comma, initial(s), and period. Ampersand is acceptable in reference list

Benincasa, T., EdD. RN, King, E., PhD., RNC, Rimer, B., EdD., RN, Bloom, H., EdD, RNC, Balshem, A., MSN, James, J., MSN, & Engstrom, P. BSN.

3. Title: Determine the correct format for the article title.

Results of an office-based training program in clinical breast examination for primary care physicians.

This is correct as in APA, we capitalize only the first word in a title of an article, the first word of a sub-title, and the first word after a colon. Other words that may be capitalized are proper nouns.

*Results of an Office-based Training Program in Clinical Breast Examination for Primary Care Physicians.*

Results of an office-based training program in clinical breast examination for primary care physicians.

4. Journal Title Citation in Reference List Tab:

Journal of Cancer Education. 1996,11(1):25-31.

*Journal of Cancer Education*, *11*(1), 25-31.

This version is correct. Current APA format for title of journal is that each word of the title is capitalized, followed by a comma. The journal volume is also italicized. The issue number is included only when each issue begins on page one and is in parens followed by a comma, page numbers (no p or pp) and ends with a period.

**Journal of Cancer Education**, 11(1):25-31.

*Journal of Cancer Education.* *11*(1):25-31.

You’ve corrected all errors on the citations in the References of the paper. Now it’s time to read the actual body of the paper. It seems pretty interesting! Uh oh, what’s this? In the text of the paper, a statement with several numbers catches your attention:

5. Determine the correct format for numbers:

The questionnaire was mailed to 95 NNP graduates, of which 79 responded, eleven who were not practicing.

The questionnaire was mailed to 95 NNP graduates, of which 79 responded, eleven who were not practicing.

In APA we express numbers in numeral form when they represent double digits (10 and above). However, it is not appropriate to mix numerals and

The questionnaire was mailed to ninety-five NNP graduates, of which seventy-nine responded, eleven who were not practicing.

As you continue to read the paper, a quotation is the next item to take your attention:

The observational study was then followed by a two year randomized controlled clinical trial period during which nurses with special training were in frequent contact with physicians, patients, families, and hospital staff. The purpose of the nurses’ contact was to

“elicit preferences, improve understanding of outcomes, encourage attention to pain control, and facilitate advance care planning and patient-physician communication.” (SUPPORT Principal Investigators, 1995).

In 78% of Phase II cases, physicians received at least one report stating patient or surrogate understanding and preferences. However, the results of the intervention study demonstrated only minor differences in patient-physician communication from the observational study.

6. Determine the correct format for the quotation:

1. elicit preferences, improve understanding of outcomes, encourage attention to pain control, and facilitate advance care planning and patient-physician communication. (SUPPORT Principal Investigators, 1995). (No quotation marks, indented in block form.
2. “elicit preferences, improve understanding of outcomes, encourage attention to pain control, and facilitate advance care planning and patient-physician communication.” (SUPPORT Principal Investigators, 1995). Block form, single space.
3. “elicit preferences, improve understanding of outcomes, encourage attention to pain control, and facilitate advance care planning and patient-physician communication.” (SUPPORT Principal Investigators, 1995, p. 230).

Quotation is not indented but is contained within the body of the paragraph. However, it is enclosed with quotations and has a citation at the end that includes the exact location where it can be found.

Congratulations! You have completed the APA Editorial Challenge! Are you celebrating?