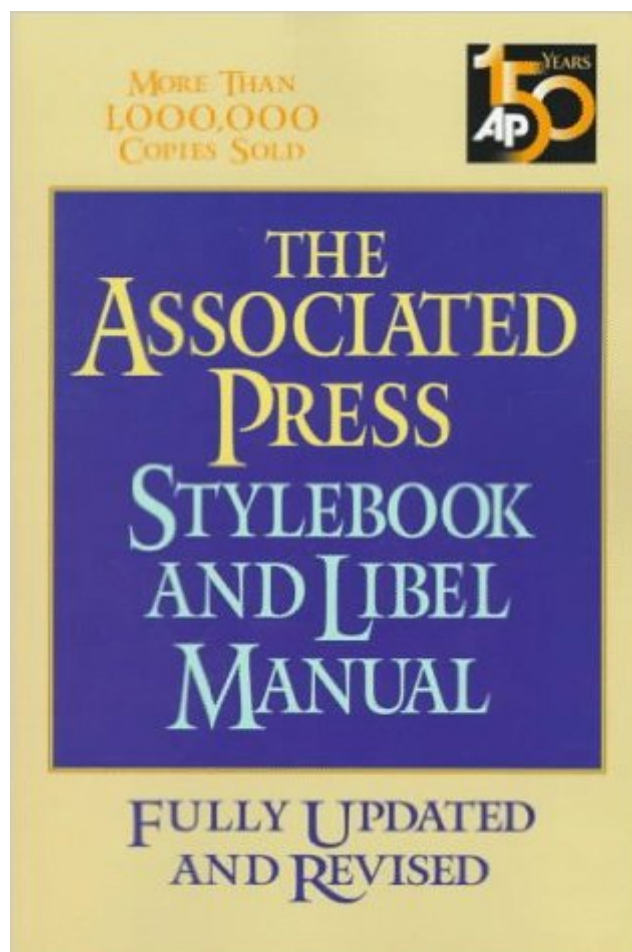


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# The Associated Press Stylebook And Libel Manual



## Synopsis

The style of the Associated Press defines clear news writing. In fact, more people write for the AP news service than for any single newspaper or broadcaster in the world. The AP Stylebook is therefore "the journalist's bible," an essential handbook for all writers, editors, students, and public-relations specialists. The AP Stylebook contains over 5,000 entries laying out the AP's rules on grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage. It gives journalists the references they need to write about the world today: correct names of countries and organizations, language to avoid, common trademarks. Special sections cover business and sports reporting. This edition, published in the Associated Press's 150th year, also includes crucial advice on how writers can guard against libel and copyright infringement. An up-to-date AP Stylebook belongs on the desk of every working writer.

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## Customer Reviews

While the media run rampant with flimsy leads and stories based solely on hearsay, it's good to know that at least their grammar stays in check, thanks to the hard and fast rules set forth in the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. Providing direct distinctions between similar words, the correct spelling of commonly-misspelled words, and the politically-correct use of dangerous words, the AP stylebook delineates specific style rules for virtually every journalistic possibility. Set up in a dictionary-style format, the manual's general stylebook lists everything from the perils of "a" versus "an" to the preferred usage of ZIP codes. Following the stylebook are the more specific

sections dealing with sports and business style, both also set up with A to Z listings, including usage and spelling. Although sports writing info may be confined to the needs of the sportswriter, the business section is helpful for those who take interest in corporate designations and definitions of stock market terms. Finally, just before the manual switches from the absoluteness of style to the murky legal waters of the libel section, comes, in my opinion, the pièce de résistance-A Guide To Punctuation-music to the ears of syntax-psychos and grammar-Nazis, alike. Starting with words of wisdom from what the AP refers to as "a bible of writers," "The Elements of Style," this portion is eleven pages of invaluable knowledge for any writer, regardless of profession, and is arranged so succinctly that even children can access its information for their own use. Although I have thus far had little use for the information about libel in this book, it is primarily what its introduction claims-not a libel text, but merely a useful guide which "explains the fundamental principles in libel for working writers and editors." It also contains some key parts of the Freedom of Information Act which should be read by everyone to fully know our rights regarding the access to federal information, during what has now become the Age of the X-file. All-in-all, the AP Stylebook and Libel Manual should be a welcome edition to any writer's reference library.

The AP Stylebook and Libel Manual is hands down the most useful single reference book on the English language. Particularly helpful are clear discussions of possessives, punctuation, and other nuts and bolts issues. And it doesn't weigh a ton, either.

In my first year of taking Journalism we learned proper terms, usage, and punctuation for a newspaper through the AP Stylebook. My teacher, ex-editor turned Journalism teacher, taught us why these rules exist, and how to put them to use in our own writing by giving us tests on certain terms and word usage. I didn't like taking them but am grateful for learning that words like "controversial" and "definitely" should be avoided, and that Frisbee is a brand name. When copy-editing this book is handy and gets us through petty arguments over how a certain word should be fixed to meet the standards. It is a very helpful Journalism reference book.

As a high school newspaper adviser (notice, "adviser") for eight years, I highly recommend every journalism teacher show his/her students the ins and outs of the AP Stylebook. It's funny, but students would rather get right into writing and ignore the minor details. But later in the year, when those pesky questions come up ("If this is going to be an annual event, should it be called 'first annual'?"), I look at them and they suddenly remember. "Oh yeah, I'll go look it up," is their

response. If the students move on to the next level, they will be one step ahead of those who have no clue. I also appreciate the wonderful sections on punctuation/proper usage as well as sports; they are often referred to in order to sharpen the monthly paper. It's worth purchasing three or four copies of the book and leave them next to the computers where the students work. The manuals will get used by the more serious students. (The lazy journalism students...well, there's not much hope for them anyway! Maybe they'll become publishers one day.) Finally, I recommend the spiral-bound copies. They're much more durable for the long haul.

The AP Stylebook is not a page-turner. It is not going to keep you from sleeping at night, not wanting to put the book down. However, for professional, and amateur, journalists, it is a must. The book will keep you from losing sleep while thinking about errors made in text or other realms of media. It IS an invaluable tool for those in newswriting, broadcast, internet publishing and formal writing.

I have and use this book daily, BUT beware. I ordered this version of the AP Style Guide, and it is NOT the most current version. There is more recent version of the book that includes Internet terms. I do recommend this book, but make sure that you order the most recent edition.

This is the best reference for consistency in writing for public reading. All those nagging questions about what is correct will be answered in this book for journalists. Did you know that you only capitalize a person's academic title when it precedes their name?

I work as a copy editor for a newspaper, and I can't get along without the AP Stylebook. Each copy editor has the latest edition next to his or her computer -- it is an essential tool for anyone in the newspaper profession! For example, say you're writing a news story on the latest rumors surrounding a high political official. Is this person "indiscreet" or "indiscrete"? If you have your trusty AP Stylebook handy, you'd soon discover the correct term is "indiscreet." The Stylebook gives the proper spelling and usage of each word, so you won't choose the wrong one -- and risk having to run a correction in the next day's paper. The AP Stylebook is an indispensable reference tool for anyone in a writing profession.

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