

Draft/Preliminary/Ongoing/Work in progress/In stream of consciousness order

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Style Guide for
The Los Angeles Psychologist

1. *The Los Angeles Psychologist* is the name of this journal. It is italicized, as are the names of all journals and books. Titles of journal articles, television shows, CE programs, and movies are quoted (e.g., “I Love Lucy”).
2. Commas in a series, the Oxford comma, use a comma before the “and” (e.g., faith, hope, and charity).
3. The first time a name is used in an article, it is John Johnson, Ph.D. Thereafter, it is Dr. Johnson. When the name is used in a sentence, a comma is used after the degree (e.g., John Johnson, Ph.D., is the author of many articles.).
4. The use of passive voice is discouraged. We discourage the use of passive voice. (John Johnson, Ph.D., writes scholarly articles. NOT: Scholarly articles are written by John Johnson, Ph.D.).
5. It is the 1950s or ’60s NOT: 1950’s or ’60’s. Lose the apostrophe.
6. The plural of acronyms is formed by adding an “s” as in SIGs, or YMCAs (no apostrophe).

7. Watch for correct use of et al. (et alii). The period goes after the “al.”
8. The numerals ten and below are written out. Numerals are used for 11 and above. All numbers beginning a sentence are written out.
9. To indicate the possessive in names ending in “s” or other sibilant, ’s is used, e.g., Burns’s poems, Marx’s theories, Dickens’s novels, the Joneses’s house.
10. *The Los Angeles Psychologist* refers to that educational institution in Alhambra as the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University.
11. Be alert to the difference between i.e. (*id est*, that is) and e.g. (*exempli gratia*, for example, such as). They cannot be used interchangeably. Each is followed by a comma (i.e., e.g.,) and the abbreviations are not italicized as are many/most words in languages other than English.
12. Interface is a noun, not a verb.
13. Avoid using clichés.
14. We cannot expect people to eliminate all the jargon, but jargon should be used sparingly.
15. We value clear, declarative sentences.

16. Watch out for “with regard to,” and drop that “s.” It is not “with regards to.” Ditto on “toward,” “not towards.” We look toward the horizon, not towards the horizon.

17. Avoid using “impact” or “transition” as verbs. While not strictly wrong these days (according to some too liberal dictionaries), it is righter to make an impact or make a transition, using those words as nouns (which every educated person knows is the case. The Barbarians are here.).

18. Whenever possible, use the term “psychologist” rather than “therapist,” “clinician,” “psychotherapist,” etc.

19. Rely on the latest research. Twenty-year-old references do not foster credibility.

20. The use of puns is discouraged.

21. APA Style Guide, 6th Edition, page 97, section 4.13, line 5: “the term is *follow-up* when functioning as a noun or adjective but *follow up* when functioning as a verb.” Albert’s addition: “follow-up” and “followup” are both acceptable when used as nouns.

22. By executive decision, we will use healthcare (one word) rather than health care (two words) or health-care (hyphenated). There is no right or wrong; we will just strive for consistency.

23. The Editorial Board frowns on contractions. Please use “it is” rather than “it’s,” etc.

25. We will go with the flow and use a lower case “w” on “web” or “website.” We remain traditional on “Internet” with a capital “I.”

26. One space only between sentences.

27. We generally permit one exclamation point per issue; it is likely that others will be omitted.