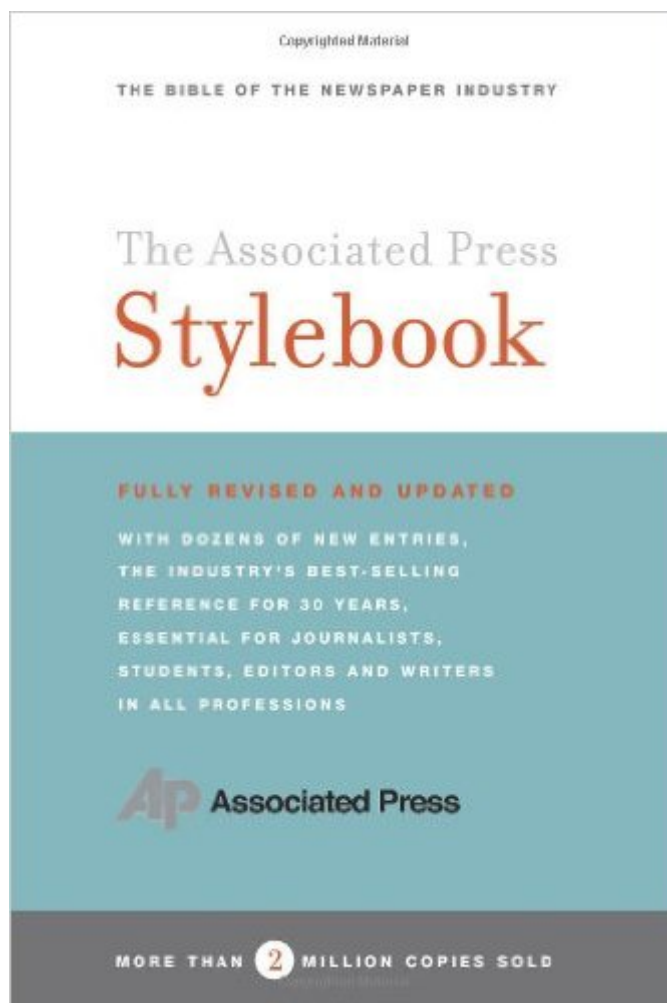


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# The Associated Press Stylebook And Briefing On Media Law



## Synopsis

More people write for The Associated Press than for any newspaper in the world, and writers-nearly two million of them-have bought more copies of The AP Stylebook than of any other journalism reference. It provides facts and references for reporters, and defines usage, spelling, and grammar for editors. There are separate sections for journalists specializing in sports and business, and complete guidelines for how to write photo captions, file copy over the wire, proofread text, handle copyrights, and avoid libel. This edition of The AP Stylebook keeps pace with world events, common usage, and AP procedures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The title of this book might lead you to think this is just another grammar book--and one with only print journalists in mind. Not so! If you are looking for a guide that will ensure consistency in all of your corporate literature, I highly recommend this book and its companion "Bible," Webster's New World College Dictionary, Fourth Edition. Never again will you have to wonder whether to add a hyphen, capitalize a word or use an abbreviation. To me one of the main reasons why documents can look unprofessional is because writers don't apply consistency in style throughout corporate literature or even throughout the same piece. This book is the ultimate foundation for consistency, clarity and professionalism. And from here you can add your own "house styles," guidelines that are unique to your profession or business. The return on investment on this book is tremendous.

Ron Marlar (a retired USAF officer, college professor, school teacher, living currently in Florida)A

primary advantage of The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law is the ease of finding style standards for journalistic writing. There are many writing style guides. Some are general in nature. Others are more specific for special kinds of writing, e.g., college reports, academic papers, scientific reports, and religious books and papers. No other rises to the level of ease as that of The Associated Press Stylebook for finding style standards. This is due to the A to Z listing format used in The Associated Press Stylebook. Another advantage of this stylebook is indicated by its full title including Briefing on Media Law. Journalists and other writers may know how to write. They may have memorized well most of the style standards, but few seem to know media law unless well trained in journalism schools of top quality. Other advantages include: the What's New, Bibliography, specific Sports and Business Guidelines and Style, Guide to Punctuation, and Proofreaders' Marks sections. The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law with its frequent updates is for serious, professional writers and others who want to know how to write and understand legal issues in writing to communicate.

Finally I can point to the authority and say, "Look, don't use the word HOPEFULLY to mean 'it is hoped, or let us hope.'" It is an adverb, not to be used to modify a sentence, only to modify a verb. Use it to mean 'in a hopeful manner.' Yes, the other use has been documented since the 30s, but that doesn't make it right. Stepping off the soap box now. Thanks AP!

Much like the DSM for psychologists, the AP Stylebook is the go-to book for finding the proper spellings and usages of words. I suggest you always purchase the most recent copy of the AP style guide. Otherwise, google your inquiry through a trusted source.

As of June 8, 2009, there is a newer edition of this book, so be sure to purchase the newest (2009 as of now) edition, especially for a changing field like journalistic style in writing. By the way, the AP web site "Ask the Editor" (FAQs) is an excellent source of information on items not covered in the book (you can search directly on their page in your browser, for items you are wondering about), just go to [apstylebook \(dot\) com](http://apstylebook.com) and look at the right-hand column. You can click on View All Questions at the bottom of that column, then search on the resulting page. They also have an online subscription version of the material in the book for \$25/year that is updated continually and is fully searchable (though I personally still like to have the book in my hands and on my desk, if I was a full-time journalist or copy/proof editor I'd likely get the online version as well, just for the searching capability).

I have used the AP Stylebook for over 5 years. The entries are easy to find and easy to understand. Entries are brief and to the point. Are the seasons capitalized? How about north, south, east and west? Where do you place adverbs - before or after the verb, or someplace else? It's Web site - two words and the first one is capitalized. Internet is capitalized because it's a proper noun. This book has the definitive answers. I don't work for a newspaper anymore, but, as a freelance writer, I miss this book more and more everyday. I must get my own. You will never be sorry that you bought this book. It will help you no matter what kind of writing you do.

An excellent resource on many levels, "The Associated Press Stylebook" calls itself "The Bible of the Newspaper Industry," and you can take their word for it. While an essential reference for anyone who writes for publication (print or online), it's also sufficiently interesting to read for its own sake. We've even used the AP Stylebook for pickup games of Trivia! There are actually ten parts to this book. The Stylebook, which is the largest, contains information far beyond grammar and punctuation. You can find here rules for proper usage ("backward," not "backwards"), capitalization (don't do it with "congress" unless it's part of a proper name), abbreviations ("MiG": the "i" is lowercase because it's the Russian word for "and"). I could go on, but you get the idea. The nine other chapters include (2) Sports Guidelines and Style; (3) Business Guidelines and Style; (4) A Guide to Punctuation; (5) Briefing on Media Law; (6) Photo Captions (how to write them); (7) Graphics (how to file them); (8) Filing the Wire; (9) Filing Practices; and (10) Editing Marks. I highly recommend *The Associated Press Stylebook 2007 (Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law)*!

*The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law* This book is (or should be) the daily "Bible" for all journalists. Sadly, we hear and read so much garbled English from journalists. For example, the ubiquitous "like" is being used inappropriately by New York Times. The AP Stylebook should be one of the well-thumbed reference books at the desk of every journalist and that of other writers as well.

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