

Get the “Write” Style:

Common Editing Concerns at SLCC



WAC@SLCC
Writing Across the College

The [SLCC Style Guide](#) provides common editing guidelines based upon the [Associated Press](#) (AP) style guide. The [chart below](#) offers the most common editing concerns in their AP format, along with the SLCC Style Guide exceptions.

The entire [Online AP Style Guide](#) and [SLCC Custom Stylebook](#) are available to SLCC employees and students.* Access is available on an SLCC campus, or through [All Access](#).

This guide is for use in workplace and public writing, not academic writing. Academic disciplines have their own style guides (e.g. [MLA](#), [APA](#), and [IEEE](#)) that should be followed by students and faculty when writing academic documents.

(*AP Online access has been made possible by the [SLCC Library](#).)

This is considered a living document and will be updated as changes are made.

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Contact the **SLCC Writing Across the College** program with any questions/concerns at wac@slcc.edu or (801) 957-3232.

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Spelling Conventions (General)		
	AP	SLCC
Spelling	Uses <i>Webster's New World College Dictionary</i>	Follows AP with the following exception: "homepage," not "home page"
Capitalization	Capitalizes proper nouns and names. (New: "internet" and "web" are no longer capitalized.)	Follows AP.
Abbreviations/ Acronyms	Do not initially use abbreviations or acronyms that the reader would not immediately recognize. Follow with acronym in parentheses. Spell out "versus" except in short expressions, "vs."	Follows AP.
"e"	No hyphen for "email." Use hyphen for other e- terms: <i>e-book, e-portfolio, e-learning.</i>	Follows AP, except for <i>ePortfolio</i> and <i>eLearning</i> .

Spelling Conventions (College Topics)		
	AP	SLCC
Salt Lake Community College	Capitalize the full name: <i>Salt Lake Community College</i>	Follows AP, but clarifies: "SLCC" is acceptable in all references online, as is the full name, Salt Lake Community College. College should be uppercase "C" when referring to SLCC: The <i>College</i> policy calls for students to pay their tuition in full. In external communications, the full name of the College should always be used on first reference and SLCC is acceptable for subsequent references.
Campus and campus name	Not indicated.	Uppercase when part of the formal name of a specific campus: <i>Taylorville Redwood Campus</i> . Lowercase when not part of a formal name: The <i>campus</i> spans 80 acres. Lowercase when plural: South City, Jordan, and Larry H. Miller <i>campuses</i> .

Departments/ Offices	Lowercase when they are generally used terms: the <i>history department</i> of SLCC.	<p>Capitalize the first letter of each word in SLCC departments, divisions and offices.</p> <p>Avoid using “department,” “division” or “office” unless part of the official name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Allied Health • Institutional Effectiveness • Academic Advising • Budget Office • Development Office • Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences • Health and Lifetime Activities • Institutional Effectiveness
courses/ subjects	<p>Capitalize specific course titles: <i>Introduction to Anthropology</i>.</p> <p>Do not capitalize subjects in general usage, except those designating language: He studied <i>history, English and business management</i>.</p>	Follows AP.
Academic titles	<p>Capitalize formal titles such as president, provost, dean, etc., when they precede a name: SLCC <i>Provost Clifton Sanders</i> was awarded an honorary doctorate.</p> <p>Lowercase when they follow a name, and elsewhere: Clifton Sanders, <i>provost at SLCC</i>, was awarded an honorary doctorate. The <i>college president</i> visited the Board of Regents.</p>	Follows AP.
Academic degrees	<p>Degree Names: associate degree, bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Art, Master of Arts</p> <p>Abbreviations: A.A., A.S., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.</p> <p>Do not use both the title Dr. before and then Ph.D. after an individual’s name</p>	<p>Follows AP, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • associate’s degree (includes ‘s) • Abbreviations: AA, AS, BA, MA, PhD (no periods)
semester	Use <i>semester</i> , not term.	Follows AP.

Punctuation		
	AP	SLCC
ampersand (&)	Do not use in place of “and,” except when a part of a formal name or title.	Follows AP.
Apostrophes	Used to indicate possession, <i>Sara’s</i> book; contractions, <i>they’re</i> ; and omitted figures, the ‘60s. Not used with possessive pronouns or to create plural noun. Singular proper noun ending in “s” followed by only apostrophe: <i>Mr. Glass’</i> glasses.	Follows AP.
Colon	Typically introduces a list. Only one space after a colon.	Follows AP.
Comma	Does not use “Oxford comma.” No comma before a conjunction at the end of a series: She took <i>English, math and science classes</i> . Use comma if needed for a series of complex phrases/clauses.	Follows AP unless the lack of the comma makes the series ambiguous or unclear.
Dash	Use dashes to denote an abrupt change in thought in a sentence or an emphatic pause: <i>Through her long reign, the queen and her family have adapted – usually skillfully – to the changing taste of the time</i> . Avoid overuse of dashes to set off phrases when commas would suffice.	Follows AP.
Ellipsis	In general, treat an ellipsis as a three-letter word, constructed with three periods and two spaces: (...) Not (. . .)	Follows AP.
Hyphens	No hyphens after adverbs ending in “ly”: easily accessed. Compound modifiers typically include hyphens: <i>two-day weekend</i> .	Follows AP.
Parentheses	Parentheses are jarring to the reader; using them is a clue that the sentence is contorted. Try to rewrite sentence. Place a period outside a closing parenthesis if the material inside is not a sentence (such as this fragment). (An independent parenthetical sentence such as this one takes a period before the closing parenthesis.)	Follows AP.
Period	Only one space after a period.	Follows AP.

Prefixes and hyphens	<p>Generally, do not hyphenate when using a prefix with a word starting with a consonant.</p> <p>Hyphenate if the prefix ends in a vowel and the base word begins in the same vowel, <i>re-enter</i>, (except for cooperate and coordinate).</p> <p>Use hyphen if base word is capitalized.</p>	Follows AP.
Semi-colon	<p>Indicate a greater separation of thought and information than a comma can convey but less than the separation a period implies.</p> <p>Separate elements of a series when the items are long or when individual elements contain material that also must be set off by commas: <i>The College has students from Salt Lake City, Utah; Boise, Idaho; and Las Vegas, Nevada.</i></p>	Follows AP.

Titles		
	AP	SLCC
titles	<p>Always capitalize the first letter of the first word.</p> <p>Capitalize the first letter of each principal word in the title, including prepositions and conjunctions, but not if the words are less than four letters.</p> <p>For example, do not capitalize the, a, an, to and other words that are less than four letters.</p>	<p>Follows AP, including:</p> <p>Keep webpage titles short, using as few words as possible.</p>
Composition titles	<p>Use quotation marks to surround the following types of media titles: books, poems, lectures, speeches, works of art, computer games, movies, operas, plays, albums, songs, radio and television programs.</p> <p>Do not put quotes around Bible and reference books, catalogs, almanacs, directories, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.</p>	<p>Follows AP, except italicizes compositions that contain other compositions (e.g. books are italicized, chapters in quotation marks; periodicals are italicized, articles in quotation marks; websites are italicized, webpages in quotation marks).</p>

Numbers		
	AP	SLCC
cardinal numbers	<p>In general, spell out one through nine.</p> <p>Use figures for 10 or above.</p> <p>Use figures whenever preceding a unit of measure or referring to ages of people, animals, events, or things.</p> <p>Use figures in tabular matter.</p>	<p>Follows AP, except:</p> <p>Always spell out <i>one</i>.</p> <p>Use a hyphen to state a range of numbers.</p> <p>Avoid starting a sentence with a figure.</p>

Ordinal numbers	Spell out <i>first</i> through <i>ninth</i> . Use figures for 10 and above: <i>10th</i> , <i>21st</i> , <i>43rd</i> .	Follows AP, except: Always use figures for streets: 3 rd Ave., 7 th St.
fractions	Spell out amounts less than one and use hyphens between the words: <i>three-fifths</i> , <i>one-third</i> , <i>one-eighth</i> . Use figures for precise amounts, converting to decimals when possible.	Follows AP, except: Do not use hyphens when describing general amounts: <i>One half of students earn less than \$100,000 a year.</i>
Percentages	Always use figures and spell out the word percent: <i>35 percent</i> .	Follows AP.
Telephone numbers	List the entire number without parentheses: <i>801-957-4111</i> . If extension numbers are needed, use a comma to separate the main number from the extension: <i>212-621-1500, ext. 2</i> .	Follows AP.
money	Spell out the word <i>cents</i> (lowercase), using numerals for amounts less than a dollar: <i>5 cents</i> , <i>12 cents</i> . Use the \$ sign and decimal system for larger amounts: <i>\$1.01</i> , <i>\$2.50</i>	Follows AP.
Student Number	Not indicated.	Use "Student Number" (always uppercase) "S Number" is acceptable on later references Never use "SID", or "Student Identification Number"
street and mailing addresses	Use the abbreviations Ave., Blvd. and St. only with a numbered address: <i>1600 Pennsylvania Ave.</i> Spell them out and capitalize when part of a formal street name without a number: <i>Pennsylvania Avenue</i> . Spell out and capitalize First through Ninth when used as street names; use figures for 10 th and above: <i>7 Fifth Ave.</i> , <i>100 21st St.</i> Use periods in the abbreviation P.O. for P.O. Box numbers.	Follows AP, except: Always use figures for streets: 3 rd Ave., 7 th St.

Dates and Time		
	AP	SLCC
dates	Use figures: <i>Jan. 1</i> , <i>March 14</i> . Never use st, nd, rd, or th.	Follows AP.
days of the week	Do not abbreviate unless needed in tabular format, and then as follows, without periods: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat.	Follows AP.

months	<p>Abbreviate only Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.</p> <p>Spell out when using alone, or with a year alone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The last day of classes is Dec. 12.</i> • <i>The event is in December.</i> • <i>The event is in December 2015.</i> 	Follows AP.
year	<p>Use an “s” without an apostrophe to indicate spans of decades or centuries: <i>the 1890s, the 1800s.</i></p> <p>Years are the only exception to the general rule that a figure is not used to start a sentence: <i>1976 was a very good year.</i></p>	<p>Follows AP, but adds: It is unnecessary to include the current year with dates for events or announcements. However, if more than one year is mentioned, use the years for clarification.</p> <p>Use semester and the year when referring to a specific semester, such as <i>Spring Semester 2016.</i></p>
time of day	Use figures except for “noon” and “midnight,” 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 9-11 a.m., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Follows AP.

Miscellany		
	AP	SLCC
contacts	Not indicated.	<p>When listing a contact, use the phone number and email address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information, contact 801-957-4000 or howard.gunderson@slcc.edu. • Howard Gunderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 801-957-4000 ○ howard.gunderson@slcc.edu
Hyperlinks	Include full website in story/text.	<p>When directing users to another webpage, avoid listing webpage addresses, such as slcc.edu/students-future.</p> <p>Instead, create hypertext. Try to place your hypertext at the end of a sentence or paragraph.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out the Top 10 Reasons to Choose SLCC. • SLCC offers a host of financial aid products.