



Slide Deck for *AP Stylebook* Updates for 2021



# THE ASSOCIATED PRESS STYLEBOOK

## ACES: The Society for Editing 2021

---

April 23, 2021  
#ACES2021Online



**PAULA FROKE**  
AP Stylebook editor

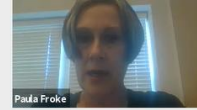


**COLLEEN NEWVINE**  
AP Stylebook product manager



---

## The AP Stylebook team



---

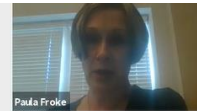
## vaccine (n.), vaccination (n.)

A *vaccine* is a product that stimulates the body's immune system to make antibodies and provide immunity against a specific virus or other germ.

*Vaccination* is the act of giving a vaccine.

The terms are often interchangeable, since a person is receiving the *vaccine* while getting a *vaccination*. Use the term *vaccination* if needed to be specific about the act of giving or receiving the shot: *the city's vaccination schedule*, for example.

The terms *immunization* and *vaccination* can generally be used interchangeably.





---

## **vaccine (n.), vaccination (n.)**

Don't refer to a *vaccine* as a *drug*, *medicine* or *serum*.  
Do not say *anti-COVID-19 vaccine* or *anti-coronavirus vaccine*. Instead: *COVID-19 vaccine* (or *vaccination*) or *coronavirus vaccine* (or *vaccination*).

The terms *COVID-19* and *coronavirus* are both acceptable as a modifier for the vaccine or vaccination.



---

## **antisemitism (n.), antisemitic (adj.)**

Prejudice or discrimination against Jews. A 2021 change from previous style (*anti-Semitism* and *anti-Semitic*).  
The previous style was based on common usage.

Avoid using the term *antisemite* for an individual other than in a direct quotation. Instead, be specific in describing the person's words or actions.



---

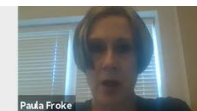
## Asian American

No hyphen (a change in 2019 for this and other dual heritage terms).  
Acceptable for an American of Asian descent.

When possible, refer to a person's country of origin or follow the person's preference. For example: *Filipino American* or *Indian American*.

Do not describe *Pacific Islanders* as *Asian Americans*, *Asians* or *of Asian descent*.

Avoid using *Asian* as shorthand for *Asian American* when possible.



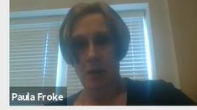
---

## Pacific Islander

Used to describe the Indigenous people of the Pacific Islands, including but not limited to Hawaii, Guam and Samoa.

Should be used for people who are ethnically Pacific Islander, not for those who happen to live in Pacific Islands.

Be specific about which communities you are referring to whenever possible.



---

## Black, white

Use the capitalized term *Black* as an adjective in a racial, ethnic or cultural sense: *Black people, Black culture, Black literature, Black studies, Black colleges.*

*African American* is also acceptable for those in the U.S. The terms are not necessarily interchangeable. Americans of Caribbean heritage, for example, generally refer to themselves as *Caribbean American*. Follow an individual's preference if known, and be specific when possible and relevant. *Minneapolis has a large Somali American population because of refugee resettlement. The author is Senegalese American.*

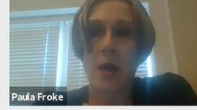


---

## Indigenous (adj.)

Capitalize this term used to refer to original inhabitants of a place.

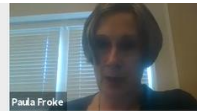
*Aboriginal leaders welcomed a new era of Indigenous relations in Australia. Bolivia's Indigenous peoples represent some 62% of the population.*



---

## **brown (adj.)**

Avoid this broad and imprecise term in racial, ethnic or cultural references unless as part of a direct quotation. Interpretations of what the term includes vary widely.

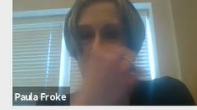


---

## **people of color**

The term is acceptable when necessary in broad references to multiple races other than white: *We will hire more people of color. Nine playwrights of color collaborated on the script.*

Be aware, however, that many people of various races object to the term for various reasons, including that it lumps together into one monolithic group anyone who isn't white.



---

## people of color

Be specific whenever possible by referring to, for instance, *Black Americans*, *Chinese Americans* or *members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida*.  
Examples: *The poll found that Black and Latino Americans are bearing the brunt of the pandemic's financial impact, not people of color are bearing the brunt of the pandemic's financial impact. Most of the magazine's readers are Black women, not most of the magazine's readers are women of color.*

In some cases, other wording may be appropriate. Examples: *people from various racial and ethnic backgrounds; diverse groups; various heritages; different cultures.*

Do not use *person of color* for an individual.



---

## disabilities

Avoid writing that implies *ableism*: the belief that typical abilities – those of people who aren't disabled – are superior.

Ableism is a concept similar to racism, sexism and ageism in that it includes stereotypes, generalizations and demeaning views and language. It is a form of discrimination or prejudice against people with disabilities.



---

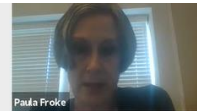
## disabilities

When possible, ask people how they prefer to be described.

Some people view their disability as central to their identity, and use *identity-first language* such as *an autistic woman* or *an autistic*.

Others prefer *person-first language* such as *a woman with autism* or *a woman who has autism*.

In describing groups of people, or when individual preferences can't be determined, use *person-first language*.



---

## disabilities

Other language or constructions not to use:

- Words that suggest pity, such as *afflicted with*, *battling* or *suffers from* any disability or illness, or that a person *overcame her disability*.  
Instead: *living with dementia*, *has cancer*, *being treated for ADHD*, etc.
- Cliches such as *inspiring* and *brave*.
- Dehumanizing mass terms such as *the disabled*, *the blind*, *the mentally ill*, etc. As with all writing, avoid broad generalizations, labels and stereotypes.



---

## **special needs, special education**

When possible, avoid these terms. While they remain in wide use in education and law, many view them as euphemistic and offensive.

Instead, aim to be specific about the needs or services in question.