

Martinez's Ten Writing Commandments

1. ***Thou shalt not submit a paper with a boring title, as in***

“Literature Review”

Thou shall write a title that gets the reader's attention, or tells the reader what the paper is about, as in

“How Well Do Our Representatives Represent? A Literature Review”

2. ***Thou shalt not use authors' first names or book, article, or journal titles in the body of the paper, as in***

In her 1992 *Journal of Politics* article, “Electoral Politics and Strategic Voting in State Supreme Courts”, Melinda Gann Hall examines data from four state supreme courts ...

Thou shall refer to previous research using the APSA in text style, as in

Hall (1992) examines data from four state supreme courts ...

3. ***Thou shalt not use footnotes or endnotes only to cite sources, as in***

Communication has significant effects on the level of cooperation.¹

Thou shall refer to previous research using the APSA in text style, and use brief explanatory footnotes sparingly, as in

Communication has significant effects on the level of cooperation (Majeski and Fricks 1995).

4. ***Thou shalt not use *ibid.*, *loc. cit.*, *op. cit.*, to refer to sources, as in***

However, communication does not affect the likelihood of defection among the small number of groups motivated by greed.²

Thou shall use APSA style references, as necessary, to give proper attribution.

However, communication does not affect the likelihood of defection among the small number of groups motivated by greed (Majeski and Fricks 1995, 643).

5. ***Thou shalt not plagiarize, as in***

In a parallel way, candidates for political office not taken seriously by news organizations quickly discover that neither are they taken seriously by anybody else.

Thou shall properly quote and give credit to the original authors, as in

“In a parallel way, candidates for political office not taken seriously by news organizations quickly discover that neither are they taken seriously by anybody else.” (Iyengar, Peters, and Kinder 1982, 855)

¹ Majeski and Fricks (1995).

² *Ibid.*, p. 643.

6. ***Thou shalt not quote if you don't have to, as in***

“In a parallel way, candidates for political office not taken seriously by news organizations quickly discover that neither are they taken seriously by anybody else.” (Iyengar, Peters, and Kinder 1982, 855)

Thou shall use your own words to convey which findings and implications are important, as in

Iyengar, Peters, and Kinder (1982) find a strong agenda-setting effect of television news, and suggest that the media also play an important role in telling voters which candidates deserve their attention.

7. ***Thou shalt not refer to “data” as singular, as in***

Hall's (1992) data is taken from ...

Thou shall refer to “data” as plural, as in

Hall's (1992) data are taken from ...

8. ***Thou shalt not randomize the order of entries in the list of references, as in***

Fricks, Shane and, Stephen J. Majeski. 1995. Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 39 (4, December): 622-645.

Bartels, Larry M. 1991. Constituency Opinion and Congressional Policy Making: The Reagan Defense Buildup. *American Political Science Review* 85 (2, June): 457-474.

Thou shall alphabetize entries in the list of references, but shall keep the original order of authorship within references.

Bartels, Larry M. 1991. Constituency Opinion and Congressional Policy Making: The Reagan Defense Buildup. *American Political Science Review* 85 (2, June): 457-474.

Majeski, Stephen J., and Shane Fricks. 1995. Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 39 (4, December): 622-645.

9. ***Thou shalt not include sources in the list of references that are not referred to in the text, nor shalt thou exclude sources that are referred to in the text from the list of references.***

Thou shall understand that not everything you might read for a paper will eventually be included in the list of references.

10. ***Thou shalt not misuse apostrophes in plurals, possessives, and contractions, as in***

Its apparent from Bartels' (1991) study that representative's constituencies opinions affect they're votes on major issues, such as President Reagans proposal to increase the Pentagons' budget.

Thou shall use apostrophes correctly in forming possessives, and minimize the use of contractions.

Bartels (1991) showed that constituency opinion had a significant effect on representatives' votes on the Reagan defense buildup.