

Academic Sources

Academic writing needs academic sources. Newspapers, magazines, and Wikipedia are interesting and informative, but they are not academic sources because they are not refereed or peer-reviewed publications. The basic idea behind peer-review is that at least a few other knowledgeable people agreed with the writer said. It's not a perfect process, but it's better than nothing. Academic journals are always acceptable. Law schools may have law reviews that are acceptable. Government reports are generally considered reliable. Academic books, the kind with footnotes and cited sources published by university presses, are acceptable.

Non-academic sources may be cited, but are not substitutes for academic sources. Examples of non-academic sources include: *Police Chief*, *Corrections Today*, *Narc*, *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *US News and World Report*, *New York Times*, *Soldier of Fortune*, *Mother Jones*, and *DUB*. Wikipedia is something we all use, and it is a great tool. But by itself Wikipedia is not an academic source. Articles in Wikipedia, however, are generally well cited. Just be sure to follow links back to the original sources. You need to judge whether or not they are reliable.

Here's a partial list of academic journals that often have police-related articles. Most if not all of these journals are available in the John Jay College library, both in person and online. Consider going to the library if at all possible. Librarians and walking the stacks can help you find things you never even knew you were looking for.

American Journal of Criminal Justice	Journal of Drug Issues
American Journal of Policing	Journal of Police Science and Administration
American Journal of Sociology	Journal of Police Studies
American Sociological Review	Journal of Probation and Parole
British Journal of Criminology	Journal of Quantitative Criminology
Contemporary Justice Review	Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
Crime and Delinquency	Journal of School Violence
Crime and Social Justice	Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Studies
Criminal Justice Ethics	Journal of Social Issues
Criminal Justice and Behavior	Justice Quarterly
Criminal Justice Policy Review	Juvenile and Family Court Journal
Criminal Justice Review	Law and Society Review
Criminology	Police Practice and Research
Criminology and Public Policy	Police Quarterly
Homicide	Policing
Humanity and Society	Public Administration Review
Law Enforcement Executive Forum	Social Forces
Journal of Conflict Resolution	Social Problems
Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice	Sociological Inquiry
Journal of Criminal Justice	Sociological Quarterly
Journal of Criminal Justice Education	Sociology and Social Research
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology	Women and Criminal Justice

This is one of four writing guides: "Formatting Notes for Academic Writing," "Academic Writing Style," "Academic Sources," and *Grammar 101*.