The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association offers a set of standards and guidelines to achieve maximum accuracy in academic writing and to identify the best practices with regard to the ethical and responsible treatment of a manuscript throughout the publication process.

This study has as its aim to design and validate an instrument to assess the adequacy of scientific papers to APA rules.

**METHOD**

**RUBRIC DESIGN PROCESS**

1. **First stage**: Selection of 3 experts qualified in APA rules
2. **Second stage**: Selection of 10 papers published between 2012 and 2016
3. **Third stage**: Impossibility to prepare a rubric which can be used to assess all APA style elements
4. **Fourth stage**: Specific parameters were defined
5. **Fifth stage**: Only the first 10 cases of the citation system would be reviewed.
6. **Sixth stage**: Once it was decided that the rubric was reliable and valid, the instructions for its utilization were drawn up.

**DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS**

A reliable instrument
even though it can neither assess all APA style elements nor the citation system of an entire paper

It increases coherence and uniformity during the process of drawing up and review of scientific papers

It is flexible so that it can adapt to each user’s needs

Do not hallucinate.