Writing in APA Style

6th Edition
Resources:

- APA manual
- OWL at Purdue
- ARC writing consultants
- Handout from psychology department
- APA style blog (they’ll answer questions!)
General APA Style

- 8 ½” x 11” white paper
- 1” margins
- 12 point font; black
- Double spaced
- Number all pages and include short title in header
- Indent each paragraph
- 2 spaces after a period

See pages 41-51 of APA manual for a sample paper
Title Page

- Title
  - Summarizes the main idea of the paper
  - Recommended length: No more than 12 words
- Author’s name
  - First name, middle initial, last name
  - No titles or degrees earned (e.g., Dr., Ph.D., etc.)
- Affiliation (i.e., university or institution)
  - Do not use abbreviations

Optional, depending on instructor:
- Campus Box number
- Semester
- Course Name
- Instructor Name
Title Page...

Page number
- Upper right hand corner
- Include on each page of paper
- Use page number function in “Header” function

Running head:
- An abbreviated, logical version of the title
- All capital letters
- Maximum of 50 characters (including spaces and punctuation)
- Left margin
- Write out the words “Running head:” on title page only.
Increasing Motivation in College Classes: A Qualitative Study

Joanne Frattaroli
George Fox University
Campus Box # 1234
Fall, 2009
Psyc 311, Child Development

This all goes on the top half of the page!
Using Word to do headers

1. Open a new document
2. Click to insert header
3. Before you type anything,
4. Select “different first page”
5. Now your header is labeled
6. Type your first page header
Page numbers

1. Type your header
2. Tab to the right margin
3. Select page number
   → current position
   → plain number
Abstract – APA Style

- 150 - 250 words total
- On page 2 by itself (the introduction follows on page 3)
- The word “Abstract” is centered at the top of the page
- No indentation of the abstract paragraph
- After the abstract, list 3-5 keywords
- This is a summary, NOT the first paragraph of your paper
Abstract

Increasing student motivation has always been a challenge for teachers. Students may be unmotivated to perform because of home stress (citation, year), peer pressures (citation, year), or physical health problems (citation, year). The present study examined a technique designed to increase student motivation...

Keywords: motivation, college students, education
Introduction – APA Style

- Begins on page 3 (after the title page and abstract)
- Title of the paper (not the word Introduction) is centered at top
- Do not include your name anywhere in the introduction (or throughout the rest of the paper; your name belongs only on the title page)
- Begin paragraphs with an indentation
Increasing Student Motivation in College Classes: A Qualitative Study

Although some students are apt to work very hard for the pleasure of completing a job well done, other students need some assistance to keep them motivated……
Any citation that is in the paper must be in the reference section.

Any reference in the reference section must be cited in the paper.

Works Cited
References...

- Alphabetical order
  - Last name, first initial. Middle initial. (year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, vol*(issue), pages. doi:10.xxxxxxx

- Hanging indent

- DOI if one has been assigned, regardless of whether you accessed a print or an online copy

- If no DOI: Homepage URL if you accessed online copy (http://www.apa.org/monitor/); not necessary if you accessed a print copy
  - Homepage of the journal, not the database!
References


Author’s last name, then initials (including middle name, if they have one).

Comma in between names, even before ampersand

Ampersand before last author

Reference subheading: this IS on a new page!

Digital Object Identifier

Title of article; only first letter capitalized (and first letter after a colon, and proper nouns like “California”)

Page numbers, then a period

Year of publication in parentheses, with a period after it.

Journal title and volume, in italics; issue number not in italics

Put list (between references) in alphabetical order; within references, keep order on paper

No period at the end of the DOI
In-Text Citation:
Giving credit where credit is due

References in text are to point the reader to the original source of the information.

Any time you borrow another person’s words or ideas, you must cite that person.

- Citations give credit for ideas; quotation marks give credit for the actual words.
When citing in the paper itself (outside of the reference page):

You can cite in the actual body of the text:

• According to James (1995), children like to…

• As demonstrated in a study by Smith, Jones, and Frattaroli (2001), an intervention of this sort…

You can cite parenthetically:

• Children like to get recognized for their accomplishments (James, 1995).

• An intervention of this sort can reduce absenteeism (Smith, Jones, & Frattaroli, 2001).

Put year in parentheses with the name it goes with

Use last names only

Use ‘and’ instead of ampersand in text

Period goes at the end of the sentence. The citation is part of the sentence.

Use an ampersand in parentheses
One work with one author

In the body of the paper:

- Langston (1994) examined how people deal with positive life experiences.
- OR
- In a study about positive life experiences, people were more likely… (Langston, 1994).

In the reference section:

One work with two authors

In the body of the paper:
- Fredrickson and Joiner (2002) explored positive emotions and well-being...
- OR
- In a study about positive emotions... (Fredrickson & Joiner, 2002).

In the reference section:
One work with 3 - 5 authors

In the body of the paper:
- 1st citation: Pennebaker, Barger, and Tiebout (1989) examined the health of...
- OR
- 1st citation: A study examining the effects of disclosure on holocaust survivors (Pennebaker, Barger, & Tiebout, 1989)
- 2nd citation (in subsequent paragraphs): Pennebaker et al. (1989) found...

In the reference section:
One work 6 or more authors

In the body of the paper:

- Petrie et al. (1993) examined the effects of a traumatic experience on…
- OR
- Writing about traumas also improves immune response (Petrie et al., 1993).

In the reference section:

Secondary citations

If you read in one source (Smith, 2009) about a study from another source (Jones, 2006), you can only cite the study you actually read:

- Children tend to respond well to treatment ...
  (Jones, as cited in Smith, 2009).
Quotations

- Are to be avoided whenever possible
  - Definitions of psychological terms are a notable exception to this
- Placed within quotation marks if less than 40 words
  - Citation is then accompanied by the page number
- Set off in a block without quotation marks if more than 40 words
When using quotations (which you should avoid completely or do only sparingly if you must!):

• Always put quotes around phrases that are word-for-word from another source (4 words or more in a row).

• Indicate the author(s) last name(s), year, AND page that the quote came from:

As stated in Frattaroli (2005), “Expressive writing improves test performance on the GRE, MCAT, or LSAT” (p. 273).

OR

“Expressive writing improves test performance on the GRE, MCAT, or LSAT” (Frattaroli, 2005, p. 273).
Piaget (1968) writes “every structure has a genesis” and “genesis emanates from a structure and culminates in a structure” (p. 149). The fact is that we must understand new material through old and often inadequate mental structures. This affects what is learned and how it is understood. Thorson (1981) states,

- The important fact that a divine revelation is that real source of our knowledge does not eliminate the purely epistemological problems of communication, interpretation, and comprehension, nor does it impart a special status or rational certainty to our knowledge itself. We walk by faith: the truth is divine but it held by earthen vessels, human and fallible. (p. 132)

Without additional cognitive processes, assimilation would

....
Paraphrasing

Is more than just rewording the passage by changing “unpredictable” to “difficult to predict”

Even the cadence of the phrase must be changed in order to do a correct paraphrase

You still must identify the original source of the ideas (code, n.p.)