APA Formatting and Style Guide

Purdue OWL staff
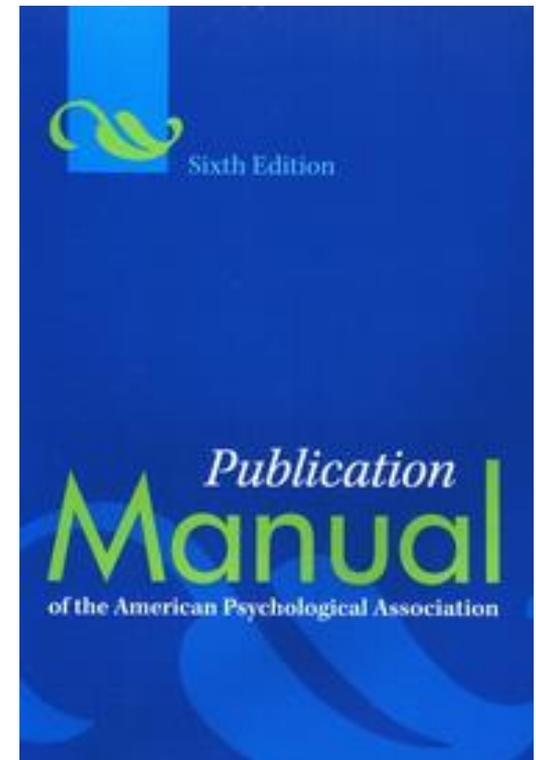Brought to you in cooperation with the Purdue Online Writing Lab

What is APA Style?

The American Psychological Association (APA) citation style is the most commonly used format for manuscripts in the social sciences.

APA regulates:

- Stylistics
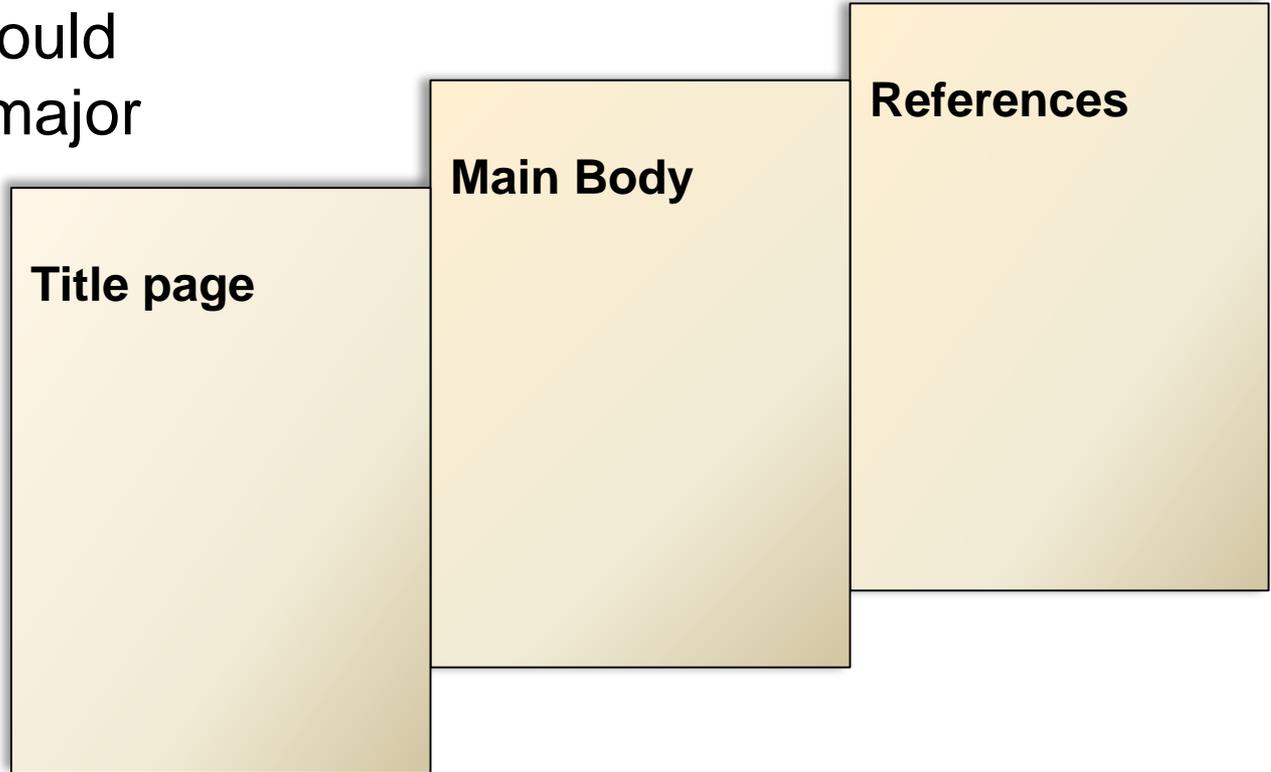
- In-text citations

- References

Language in an APA paper should be:

• **Clear**: be specific in descriptions and explanations

• **Concise**: condense information when you can

• **Plain**: use simple, descriptive adjectives and minimize figurative language

Your essay should:

- be typed,

- Five paragraphs cover the topic well

- use 12pt. Standard font (ex. Times New Roman),

- be printed on standard-sized paper (8.5"x 11")

- Use students own words except when quoting

Your essay should include three major sections:

Title page

Main Body

References

Title Page

Running head: THE PURDUE OWL'S AWESOME EXAMPLE OF AN APA PAPER   1

The Purdue OWL's Awesome Example

Of an APA Paper

Jack Dawkins

Purdue University

Title
Name
Date
Teacher
Class and Hour

- Type and center the title of the paper at the top of the page

- Type the text double-spaced with all sections following each other without a break

- Identify the sources you use in the paper in parenthetical, **in-text citations**

- Center the title (References) at the top of the page. *Do not bold it.*

- Double-space reference entries

- Flush left the first line of the entry and indent subsequent lines (hanging indent)

- Order entries alphabetically by the last name of the first author of each work

THE PURDUE OWL'S AWESOME EXAMPLE OF AN APA PAPER   1

References

Cummings, J. N., Butler, B., & Kraut, R. (2002). The quality of online social relationships. *Communications of the ACM, 45*(7), 103-108.

Hu, Y., Wood, J.F., Smith, V., & Westbrook, N. (2004). Friendships through IM: Examining the relationship between instant messaging and intimacy. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, 10*(1), 38-48.

Tidwell, L.C., & Walther, J.B. (2002). Computer-mediated communication effects on disclosure, impressions, and interpersonal evaluations: Getting to know one another a bit at a time. *Human Communication Research, 28*(3), 317-348.

Underwood, H., & Findlay, B. (2004). Internet relationships and their impact on primary relationships. *Behaviour Change, 21*(2), 127-140.

- Invert authors' names (last name first followed by initials)

  - EX: "Smith, J.Q."

APA is a complex system of citation. When compiling the reference list, the strategy below might be useful:

1. Identify the type of source:
   Is it a book? A journal article? A webpage?

2. Find a sample citation for this type of source
   Check a textbook or the OWL APA Guide:
   http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

3. "Mirror" the sample or look at your sample APA guide

4. Make sure that the entries are listed in alphabetical order and that the subsequent lines are indented (Recall References: Basics)

In-text citations help readers locate the cited source in the References section of the paper.

Whenever you use a source, provide in parenthesis:
- the author's name and the date of publication

- for quotations and paraphrases, provide the author's name, date of publication, and a page number

orci viverra et. Phasellus bibendum risus id augue mattis venenatis (Lahiri, 2002). Vestibulum porttitor, "lacus at malesuada pulvinar, sem libero placerat lacus, malesuada gravida dui sem id leo" (Lahiri, 2002, p. 501). Duis volutpat risus est, vitae pulvinar quam iaculis eu. Maecenas sit

When quoting:
- Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase

- Include the author's name, year of publication, and page number

- Keep the citation brief—do not repeat the information

Caruth (1996) has stated that a traumatic response frequently entails a "delayed, uncontrolled repetitive appearance of hallucinations and other intrusive phenomena" (p.11).

A traumatic response frequently entails a "delayed, uncontrolled repetitive appearance of hallucinations and other intrusive phenomena" (Caruth, 1996, p.11).

Provide the author's last name and the year of publication in parenthesis after a summary or a paraphrase.

Though feminist studies focus solely on women's experiences, they err by collectively perpetuating the masculine-centered impressions (Fussell, 1975).

When including the quotation in a summary/paraphrase, also provide a page number in parenthesis after the quotation:

According to feminist researchers Raitt and Tate

(1997), "It is no longer true to claim that women's

responses to the war have been ignored" (p. 2).

Introduce quotations with signal phrases, e.g.:

    According to Xavier (2008), "…." (p. 3).

    Xavier (2008) argued that "……" (p. 3).

Use such signal verbs such as:

    acknowledged, contended, maintained,
    responded, reported, argued, concluded, etc.

Use the past tense or the present perfect tense of verbs in signal phrases when they discuss past events.

When citing an electronic document, whenever possible, cite it in the author-date style. If electronic source lacks page numbers, locate and identify paragraph number/paragraph heading.

According to Smith (1997), ... (Mind over Matter section, para. 6).

The Purdue OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu

The Purdue Writing Lab @ HEAV 226

Composition textbooks

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.

APA's website: http://www.apastyle.org

The End

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