An Example of Writing A Paper Using 5th Edition APA Style

Your Name

Your College

Course code, semester
Abstract

In the past, some students have had difficulties with the APA style. Therefore, this paper will provide future authors a brief summary of how to write a paper using the 5th edition APA format. Title page, abstract, first page of text, strategies to improve writing style, and the reference page are some of the topics discussed.
An Example of Writing A Paper Using 5th Edition APA Style

In the past, some students have had difficulties with the APA style. Therefore, Zubov and Hall (2003) thought it would be helpful to provide future authors with an example on how to write a professional paper using the 5th edition of the APA style.

Title Page

All papers should have a title page. The title page consists of the title, not longer than 12 words; author’s name; institutional affiliation; and running head. In APA style, date is not included. However, for this class please add class code and semester. The preferred form of an author’s name is first name, middle initial(s), and last name. If there are multiple authors from the same institution, list them in order from the person who did the most work first to the person who did the least amount of work last; if all persons did the same amount of work, list authors in alphabetical order.

Abstract Page

The second page of a manuscript should be an abstract. An abstract is a brief yet comprehensive summary of the contents of the paper. A well-prepared abstract will usually be the most important paragraph in your paper or article. The abstract does should be dense with information but also readable, well organized, brief, and self-contained (without references). A good abstract is accurate (correctly reflects the purpose and content of the paper), self-contained (defines abbreviations, unique and key terms), and concise and specific (not longer than 120 words).

First Page of Text

Type the title of the paper at the top of the page and center it on the top of the page. The body of the paper begins on a new page. The first paragraph should be an introduction that
presents the specific problem or issue of the paper. Because the introduction is clearly defined by its position in the paper, it is not labeled.

**Additional Information**

*Heading.* There are five levels of headings. However, the authors of this guide, assume that as future authors, you will probably use two; side headings, and paragraph headings. When there are only two levels of headings are used, side headers are italicized and typed in upper and lower case letters. After a side header, you should place a hard return. The headers; title page, abstract page, first page of text are explains of side headers.

*Writing style.* Whether using a single word, thought, sentence or paragraph, writing must be orderly. Presenting ideas in an orderly manner will allow the readers to understand what you, as an author, are presenting, from the opening introduction of your paper, to concepts developed, to the conclusion. When writing the paper, make sure there is a smoothness of expression. As a writer avoid falling into the creative writing trap (e.g., using ambiguity, omitting the expected, shifting topic, tense, or person, and omitting the unexpected) and use a more professional writing style. Common problems in writing include, jargon used, wordiness, redundancy, word choice, colloquial expressions, overuse of pronouns (beginning or ending a sentence with a pronoun), and use of an editorial “we”.

*Strategies to improve writing style.* Incorrect grammar and sentence construction is common problems in APA writing. Verbs are direct communicators and should be active rather than passive. When writing always use the author(s) first, followed by the year of publication, and past tense form of the verb. An example would be, Zubov and Hall (2003) studied student writing samples with regard to APA format. Most authors’ works are past tense, thus this tense should be reflected as such throughout the paper. Another common error that should be avoided is ending a sentence with a preposition.
Quotations. Direct quotes must be accurate. Material directly quoted from another source, your own source, or duplicated from another source should be reproduced word for word and use the full reference and exact page number of the quote. Do not use a quote from a quote, always go back to the original citation and check for accuracy. All direct quotes must have a page number where the quote can be found immediately after the author and year in the reference.

Reference citations within the text. When writing your paper, authors want to document their work throughout the paper by citing the author and date of his/her research used in the paper. APA journals use and encourage the use of the author – date method of citation. When writing use the author, year at the beginning of the sentence rather than at the end of the sentence. For example, Zubov and Hall (2003) studied student writing samples… Another way to write this would be… In a recent study of student writing styles, Zubov and Hall (2003) found…..

Within the same paragraph only, you do not need to include the year in subsequent references to a reference as long as the reference can not be confused with another reference cited in the paper. Both authors last names and the year the work was published will always cite works that have only two authors. Works that have three or more authors will require the citation of all authors the first time the reference occurs, in subsequent citations, only include the surname of the first author followed by et al.

Paragraph headings are also italicized. However, only capitalize the first word and place a period at the end of the heading. Furthermore, you do not place a hard return after a paragraph header. The headings; headings, typing your paper, margins, are explains of paragraph headers.

Typing your paper. Use a typeface that is serif preferred as it improves the readability and reduces eye fatigue. Preferred typefaces are Times New Roman 12-pt font or Courier 12-pt font.
All papers should be double-spaced. If you are using a computer, always spell check before printing.

**Pagination.** All pages in the papers should be paginated. The page number belongs in the upper right hand corner after the page header. The title page is page 1, abstract is page 2 and so on.

**Running head.** Your running head belongs along side your page number (5 spaces to the left). It should not be longer than 50 characters. The running head should be an abbreviation of the title of the paper.

**Margins.** Margins should be 1 inch all around.

**References**

Start the reference list on a new page. The word, Reference(s), should be centered at the top of the page. The library has a handout on how to reference various pieces of work. See Appendix A for a few examples of how references should be typed.
APPENDIX A

EXAMPLE OF A REFERENCE PAGE
REFERENCES


Collister, L. (1975). A comparison of the long range benefits of graduation from special vs. mainstream schools for the mildly mentally handicapped students. Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, Department of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 117 870)


