



Writing in Psychology

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APA Format: Running Head & Title Page

Running head: TITLE OF YOUR PAPER

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The Title of Your Paper

Your Name

School Affiliation





APA Format: Abstract

- An abstract is a very brief summary of the most important points the writer(s) will cover throughout the scientific paper.
- Should not be confused with an introduction/thesis statement...



Example Abstract

- The study is to show how even a “sport” video game can incorporate many types of learning, to call attention to what might be overlooked as significant forms of learning, and to understand and take advantage of the opportunities video games afford as more deliberate learning environments. The aspects explored are the skills and techniques required to be successful in the game, the environment that skaters skate in, the personal vs. group identity that is shown through the general appearance of the skater, and the values and icons that the game teaches players. We are finding that sport video games support learning; we hope to find how one learns about oneself as a learner from playing.

Headings



- Each time a new topic is brought up, a new heading is placed in the center of the page before the paragraph
- Headings are NOT bolded, but are 12 point, Times New Roman font
- For example:
 - Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion
 - Introduction, Causes of Symptoms, Treatment, Discussion



APA Format: In Text Citations



Source	Citation	Source	Citation
No Author	(Short Title, 2000) ("Short Article," 2000)	Chapter	(Smith 2000, chap. 3)
1 Author	(Smith, 2000) (Smith, 2000, p. 123)	Data File	(Corporate Author, 2000)
2 Authors	(Adams & Baca, 2000, pp. 123-146)	In Press	(Smith, in press)
3/5 Authors	(Adams, Baca, & Car, 2000) Next Cite: (Adams et al., 2000)	Message	(A. B. Smith, personal communication, January 23, 2001)
6 Authors+	(Jones et al., 2001)	Multiple	(Able, 2000; Baca, 1950; Car 1975)
Corporate Acronym	(United Nations [UN], 1996) Next Cite: (UN, 1996)	No Date	(Smith, n.d.)

Source: APA Publication Manual (2001).

- Just like MLA format, APA can be very confusing at times...



APA Format: In Text Citations



- So, let's clear up the confusion!!
- You can switch up the ways in which you reference an outside source
- Ex: As Werblun (2012) stated, "Psychology is so much fun!" ("Article Title: Yay!").
- Ex: As stated in "Article Title: Yay!", "Psychology is so much fun!" (Werblun, 2012).



APA Format: References



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References

Aloise-Young, P. A. (1993). The development of self-presentation: Self-promotion in 6- to 10-year-old children. *Social Cognition, 11*, 201-222.

Banerjee, R. (2002). Children's understanding of self-presentational behavior: Links with mental-state reasoning and the attribution of embarrassment. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, 48*, 378-404.

Bennett, M., & Wellman, H. (1989). The role of second-order belief-understanding and social context in children's self-attribution of social emotions. *Social Development, 9*, 126-130.

■ Ex:



APA Format: Content for Research Papers



- Research papers are not like the typical analytical essays we usually see as English tutors...
- They are more descriptive, yet also more succinct - Get the point across quickly and efficiently
- Ex: This is what I propose and why, this is how I went about figuring out if I was correct, and here are some reasons why my research was awesome and some things I could have done better... THE END :)



APA Format: Content for Analytical Papers

- Focus should be on how particular circumstances/terminology relate to or effect the individual as a whole
- Demonstrate understanding of concepts and theories by using (personal) examples
- Having students apply concepts to their own lives, or even their own interests (movies, books, etc.), often helps with a deeper level of understanding



Application to Real Life

- Internal vs. External Motivation
- Internal - When one is truly motivated to change based on his/her inner desires (Ex: “I want to exercise more in order to feel energized and better about myself.”)
- External - When one is motivated to change based on outside forces or circumstances (Ex: “I want to exercise more in order to get that really hot guy’s attention and make my ex boyfriend jealous!”)



Application to Real Life



- Positive vs. Negative Punishment & Reinforcement
- Punishment - Designed to decrease the frequency of an undesirable behavior (Ex: Positive - Increase spanking to decrease temper tantrums. Negative - Decrease story time before bed to decrease temper tantrums.)
- Reinforcement - Designed to increase the frequency of a desirable behavior (Ex: Positive - Increase trips to ice cream parlor to increase likelihood child will do homework. Negative - Decrease allotted “chore” time to increase likelihood child will do homework.)



The End

