APA Style & APA Papers

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
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Outline

- Contents & Organization of a Manuscript
- Expressing Ideas and Reducing Bias in Language
- APA Editorial Style
  - Why do we use it?
  - How do we use it?
A Note on Writing in Psychology

- Length
- Headings
- Tone
Content & Organization of a Manuscript

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Method
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. References
8. Appendix
Title Page

- **Title.**
  - Accurate summary
  - Concise
  - Identify IVs and maybe DVs

- **Author(s) Name and Affiliation**

- **Running Head**
Abstract

- Accurate
- Self-Contained
- Concise and Specific
  - Nonevaluative
  - Coherent and Readable
Introduction

- What is the problem?
- Background Literature
- Purpose and Rationale

Consider Before Writing:
- Importance
- Relation between hyp., experimental design, and problem
- Theoretical Implications
Method

- Identify Subsections
  - Participants
    - Gender
    - Age
    - How Many?
  - Materials
    - Stimuli
    - Equipment
  - Procedure
    - Accurate
    - Enough to replicate
    - NOT everything
Results

- Narrative
- Statistical
- Graphical
Discussion

- Hypothesis Supported or Not?

- Theoretical Consequences
  - Do not just repeat yourself

- Problem
  - Importance
  - Larger Issues in Field

- Applications?
Appendix

- Author Notes, Tables, Figures, Stimuli
Expressing Ideas

- Orderly, Logical

- Smoothness of Expression
  - Jargon
  - Wordiness
  - Redundancy

- Precision and Clarity
  - Word Choice
  - Colloquial Expressions
  - Anthropomorphism
Reducing Bias

- Ethics & Fair Treatment

- Appropriate Level of Specificity
  - Age range
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Gender vs. Sex

- Be sensitive to Labels
  - Retain individuality of participants
  - Inoffensive
APA Editorial Style

- Why do we use it?
- In-Text citations and quotes
- References
In-Text Citations

- Capitalize Proper Nouns

- Referring to Title of an article within your paper
  - Capitalize all important words

- Colons: Capitalize first word after colons.
Quotes

- **If author is mentioned**
  - According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199). Jones (1998) found "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199); what implications does this have for teachers?

- **If author is not mentioned**
  - She stated, "Students often had difficulty using APA style," but she did not offer an explanation as to why (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

- **Long Quotes**
  - Avoid, if possible
  - Summarize or paraphrase
Citing an Author or Authors

- **One Author**
  - (Clark-Foos, 2009) or “Clark-Foos (2009) asserts that ...”

- **Two Authors**
  - (Clark-Foos & Marsh, 2008)

- **Three to Five Authors**
  - First time: (Clark-Foos, Marsh, Meeks, & Brewer, 2009)
  - After: (Clark-Foos et al., 2009)

- **Six or More Authors**
  - (Clark-Foos et al., 2009)
Other Cites

- **Organization as an Author**
  - First Citation: (Mothers Against Drunk Driving [MADD], 2000)

- **Two or More Works in Same Parentheses**
  - Same as Reference List
  - (Clark-Foos, 2009; Marsh, 2006)

- **Authors with Same Last Name**
  - (E. Marsh, 2006; R. Marsh, 2008)

- **Two or More Works by Same Author in the Same Year**
  - (Kensinger, 2003a)

- **Electronic Sources**
  - Same as any other
  - Or, ("Tutoring and APA," n.d.)
Basic Rules

- Hanging Indent:

- Author’s Names are Inverted

- Alphabetized

- Single Author before Multiple Author

- Journal Article Titles: Only first word capitalized

- Journal & Book Titles: Italicized (or underlined)
References: Journal Articles

- **Two Authors:**

- **Three to Six Authors**

- **More than Six Authors**

- **Organization as Author**

- **Unknown Author**