Basic APA Guidelines

General Guidelines
APA (American Psychological Association) style is commonly used to cite sources within social sciences. APA style is used because it is straightforward and spotlights ideas being presented. The font type of the draft should be 12 pt., Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins on all sides of the paper.

Major Paper Section

Title Page

Header (Running head)
The running head should be a shorted version of the paper’s full title. In left-hand corner of the cover page, “Running head” as well as the title should appear. The title should be no more than 50 characters. Additionally, “Running head” should only appear on the cover page. The page number should be placed in the right hand corner.

Abstract

Title the page “Abstract.” This should be centered.

The abstract is a brief summary of the paper. The abstract gives readers a quick overview of the main idea and key points of the paper. The abstract might also briefly suggest any implications or applications of the research discussed in the paper.

The abstract should not be indented and should be between 150-250 words. Make clear of any abbreviations or acronyms that will be used throughout the draft.
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Main Body

The main body of the paper may contain an introduction, a literature review, a methods section, results section, discussion, and/or conclusion.

See your instructor about assignment requirements.

To the right is part of an introduction.

In-text Citations

In-text citations can be placed either in the beginning or at the end of a sentence. The placement of the citations may differ depending on the professor or assignment guideline's requirements. When citing in the beginning of a sentence, mention the name(s) of the author(s), the publishing year of the source, and a signal word. When citing at the end of a sentence, place the author(s) name(s), the publishing year of the source, and page number(s) in parenthesis. The page number is required to be cited when directly quoting from the source.

One Author

-Bretherton (1992) discussed.

-(Bretherton, 1992).

Two Authors

-Gotlib and McCann (1984) expected..

-(Gotlib and McCann, 1992).

Three, Four, or Five Authors

First mention

-Thrasher, Dalgleish, and Yule (1994) examined..

Second mention

-(Thrasher et al., 1994).
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Most Common Reference Entry Formats:

**Journal Article**
Author's last name (s), Author's first initial (s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical, volume number*(issue number), pages. http://dx.doi.org/xx.xxx/yyyyy

**Entire Book**
Author's last name (s), Author's first initial (s). (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle.* Location: Publisher.

**Chapter or Article in Edited Book**
Author's last name (s), Author's first initial (s). (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. A. Editor & B. B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pages of chapter). Location: Publisher.

For more information on reference entries:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/

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**References** - The following works were referred to during the creation of this handout: The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL).

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