Sample APA Paper for Students Interested in Learning APA Style 6th Edition

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Abstract

The abstract should be a single paragraph in block format (without paragraph indentation) and should be between 70-100 words. It should include parts from all sections of your paper, from introduction to conclusion. Consider writing one or two sentences summarizing each part of a paper, and you’ll have a nice abstract. Although the abstract is on page 2, it should not be written until you have completed writing the rest of your paper. Since an abstract is a summary, you need to know where your paper has gone before you can write a summary of the paper.

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Before getting started you will notice some things about this paper. First, everything is double-spaced. Second, margins are 1-inch wide on all sides. Third, there are several headings used throughout to separate different parts of the paper; some of the headings are in bold. Headings are not required in a paper but may be used based on an outline, if you have created like that for citations. Two other things about citations are important. When a citation is written inside parentheses (e.g., Cobban & Clovis, 2006), an ampersand is used between authors’ names instead of the word “and.” Second, when citing an author’s work using quotations, be sure to include a page number. For example, “URL decay is a serious problem in health care management journals” (Wagner, p. 131). Notice that the page number is included here. Unless a direct quote is taken from a source, the page number is not included (APA, 2010). Fourth, there is exactly one space after each punctuation mark (except for periods at the end of a sentence, after which there are two spaces). Fifth, the upper left of each page has a running head in all capital letters, and the upper right has the page number (Tomaiuolo, 2007). Try to pay attention to all of these details as you look through this paper.

The title of the paper should summarize the main idea of the paper and should fully explain the purpose of the paper on its own. A good title is easily shortened to the running head used at the top of the paper (Rankin, 2008).

Now that those details are out of the way, you should know that this first part of the paper is called the “Introduction” section, yet it does not have a heading that actually says “Introduction.” Instead, the title of the paper is typed at the top of the first page (be sure to center the title, but do not put it in bold). In this section you would often start with a topic paragraph that introduces the paper (Wagner, Gebremichael, Taylor, & Soltys, 2009). The importance of the topic should be pretty clear from the first paragraph or two of the Introduction.

Remember to cite your sources often in the Introduction and throughout the manuscript.

Articles and books are cited the same way in the text, yet they appear different on the References page. For example, articles by Evans (2001) and Rankin (2008) are written with the authors’ names and the year of the publication in parentheses. However, if you look on the References page they look a little different. Remember that APA style does not use footnotes.

References

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