

## APA Sample Paper\* 6<sup>th</sup> Edition

Running head: TITLE OF YOUR PAPER

1

You only need to write “running head” on the title page, and you use a shortened version of your paper title.

Title of Your Paper:

An Example of APA Style

Author’s first name, middle initial(s), and last name

Institutional affiliation

Abstract

Your abstract should begin on a new page and include the page header/running head. The word “Abstract” should be typed on the first line. It should be centered and not bolded, underlined, italicized, or put in quotations. The abstract should not be indented. The content of your abstract should summarize your research, including your topics, questions, methods, results, analysis, conclusions, and implications. It should be one paragraph, double-spaced, and between 150 and 250 word. Any terms, such as American Psychological Association (APA), should be defined in your abstract. You may also list key words, as demonstrated here.

*Keywords:* abstract, research, American Psychological Association

Title of Your Paper:

An Example of APA Style

Like MLA and Chicago, APA style allows for consistency within a discipline and insures that sources are appropriately cited. According to Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers (2015), the main aspects of writing an APA-style paper are “supporting a thesis, citing your sources and avoiding plagiarism, and integrating quotations and other source material” (p. 175). However, this is the same assertion they make about MLA and Chicago style. Also like MLA and Chicago, APA papers are typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins, and 12 point Times New Roman font (Angeli et al., 2010). So in order to understand the differences, we have to consider the goals and values of the discipline that most utilizes APA style: the social sciences. Because fields in this discipline value a clear, straightforward presentation of research as well timeliness, APA style’s use of headings and the inclusion of dates in citation make it perfect for social science research papers.

**Level 1 Heading**

There is a hierarchy to headings in APA style that helps the writer organize their ideas. Level one headings are centered, bolded, and each word is capitalized. These headings are used to set off larger sections of the paper, such as “methods,” “conclusions,” or “discussion.”

**Level 2 Heading**

A level two heading further designates different sections within a level one heading. They are flushed to the left of the page, bolded, and each word is capitalized.

**Level 3 heading.** Level three headings are indented ½ inch from the margin, bolded, and only the first word is capitalized. They are placed in line with the section they designate, with no space between the heading and the paragraph.

References

Angeli, E., Wagner, J., Lawrick, E., Moore, K., Anderson, M., Soderlund, L., & Brizee, A.

(2010, May 5). *General format*. Retrieved from

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2015). *A pocket style manual* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St.

Martin's.

Your references should be double spaced with a hanging indent and organized alphabetically with no numbering or extra space between references.

\*Sample paper retrieved from the Purdue OWL, updated 2014.