

APA Research Report - notes and grading criteria

| Key (Double Points for Paper 2) | | <u>APA Format</u> |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Points</u> | <u>Part of Paper</u> | Here is a list of the elements that your paper should include. Those elements that are specifically marked under APA format are indicated with an asterisk (*). |
| 5 | Title Page | <p>General Formatting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spacing * 2. Margins * 3. Justification (i.e., flush left, rag right) * 4. Page numbering * 5. Order of sections (including which sections follow each other directly and which begin on the separate pages) * 6. Headings or titles for sections of the paper and labels, titles and captions for tables and figures * 7. Indenting * 8. All sections must be included. * |
| 5 | Abstract | |
| 10 | Introduction | |
| 10 | Method | |
| 10 | Results | |
| 10 | Discussion | |
| 5 | References/Tables/Figs. | |
| 5 | APA format and writing style | |
| 60 | TOTAL | <p><u>Writing Style</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write in the active voice. Avoid the passive voice. 2. Make sure that, within each section, that each paragraph flows from the previous paragraph in a logical manner. 3. With Spell Checkers and Grammar programs, spelling errors and bad grammar can easily be avoided. (Read: no mercy) 4. Try breaking up long, convoluted sentences into short, clear sentences. 5. Adopt a professional, scientific tone. 6. Avoid colloquialisms, clichés. |
| <p>Grading for APA style & writing style will focus primarily on the items listed in the next column.</p> | | |

Notes on Section Specific Criteria

1. Title Page*

- a) Header* format and content
- b) Running Head* format and content
- c) Title* format and content
- d) Author name*
- e) University Affiliation*
- f) Include no other information

2. Abstract

- a) Brief, comprehensive non-evaluative summary of contents
- b) Define abbreviations (if any)
- c) Less than or equal to 960 characters (120 words)*
- d) Report the problem under investigation, participant characteristics, experimental method, findings, conclusions and implications or applications.

3. Introduction

- a) Introduce the problem in a clear and intriguing manner (first paragraph).
- b) Citation format (you are required to include at least 5 articles in the introduction)* .
- c) Literature review - brief, integrated summaries of the articles.
- d) Clear link between literature review and your hypotheses.
- e) State the hypotheses clearly
- f) Ensure that the reader understands what the dependent and independent variables are (including all levels of the independent variables).

4. Method

a) *Participants*

- number of participants;
- ages (mean and S.D.), gender breakdown , ethnic breakdown (n, %)
- explanation of dropped participants (if any);
- explain where participants come from, how selected and how assigned to groups;
- state how informed consent was collected;
- explain why people participated (compensation?).
- include APA ethical treatment paragraph

b) *Apparatus or materials (e.g., stimuli)*

- briefly describes the apparatus and/or materials and/or stimuli used, and their function in the experiment.

c) *Procedure*

- descriptive enough to allow another researcher to repeat the experiment;
- includes important details (e.g, participants were tested separately) and excludes unimportant details (e.g, the room number in which participants were tested);
- include a brief description of the instructions to participants, formation of groups, experimental manipulations;
- include randomization, counterbalancing (if any) or other control features;
- briefly describe the questionnaires, surveys, etc., used in the experiment.

5. Results

- a) State whether the hypothesis was supported or not.
- b) Include descriptive stats indicating the direction of the effect.
- c) Include a full statistical report for each hypothesis tested including the kind and value of each statistic used, degrees of freedom, error variance and probability level. What is included here depends on the type of statistic used. Check the APA manual if you are in doubt.
- d) Take care not to interpret or explain the results, just state the results.

6. Discussion

- a) Restate the findings in words only, that is, do not include any numbers or statistics. Indicate whether your hypothesis(es) were supported or not supported.
- b) Link your findings to the literature review. Point out similarities and differences.
- c) Interpret or qualify your findings and/or draw inferences from them where relevant. Explain how the findings contribute to general knowledge.
- d) Comment (but do not dwell) on shortcomings in your work. Suggest ways to overcome them in subsequent research.
- e) Identify practical and theoretical implications of your research and suggest what the next logical step in a research program on this topic would be.
- f) for unsupported hypotheses, suggest reasons why the desired results were not obtained.

Note: Do NOT focus on the shortcomings of the study. You want to "sell" your results.

7. References*

- a) A reference for each citation that appears in the paper. You are required to include at least five. (This number will change for Paper 2)
- b) Use appropriate APA format for books, chapters from books or journal articles.

8. Tables/Figures

- (a) At least one table and/or figure for your result(s) should be included.