

APA Style

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The Academic Support Center**



APA Style: The Whys and Wherefores

- Stands for American Psychological Association
- A guide for formatting a research paper and citing research sources
- Helps you avoid plagiarism
- Differs from MLA format
- Can be used in courses such as Psychology, Sociology, Education and Business



The Paper Format: Title Page

- The Running header:
 - the phrase “Running Head:” and the title of your paper in whole or in part in the upper left corner
 - the number “1” in the upper right corner
- Centered on the page: basic information
 - Title of the paper
 - Your name
 - Course name and number
 - Professor’s name
 - Date

Title Page Example

Running Head: Concept Mapping

1

Number
"1" in
upper right
corner
indicating
page 1

Upper left
corner
contains the
running
header

**Concept Mapping:
A Vocabulary Teaching Tool**

Complete title
of paper
centered on
the page

**Margaret Davidson
Education 102
Professor Wallace
September 14, 2009**

Identifying
information
including: **name,**
course, professor's
name and the date

Paper Format: Abstract

- Usually the second page of the paper
- Contains a brief summary of your paper (one or two paragraphs)
- Same running header and page number format appear as on the title page
- Word “Abstract” appears centered above the body of the abstract



Paper Format: The Text

- Page immediately following the abstract
- Contains the start of the text of your paper
- running header with page number appears at the top of the page
- Full title of your paper appears centered below the running header and page number

Body of the Paper Example

Running Head: Concept Mapping

3

Same running header as on title page

Concept Mapping:
Vocabulary Teaching Tool

Complete title of paper as on title page repeated and centered

Vocabulary has long been a heavily integrated concept at the primary, middle and even secondary levels of education. In the classroom, this often takes the form of a myriad of teaching and practice techniques.

Beginning of body of paper

Note: All lines of the page are double-spaced.

Citing Research Sources: In-text

- In-text citations give credit to an author of a quotation or paraphrase placed in your paper.
- They usually consist of the author's last name, the year of publication and the page number in parentheses and are placed after the quote or paraphrase.
- Example: "APA is a fabulous style" (Smith, 2008, p. 37).

APA In-text Citations: Exceptions to the Rule



- **Author is named in the sentence with quotation:** As Smith (2008) reports, “APA is a fabulous style” (p. 37).
- **Author is named in sentence with paraphrase:** As Smith (2008) reports, the APA style appeals to many students (p. 37).
- **More than one author:** (Lewis & Duncan, 2007)

Citing Research Sources: The References Page

- ❖ The APA References page is the final page of your paper.
- ❖ It contains a list of all of the sources that you borrowed information from and cited in the paper.

References Page: Why do I need it?

- ❖ It is necessary because it gives full credit to the works that you used **and...**
- ❖ It allows the person who reads your paper to be able to go and find your sources.



References page: How do I make one?

- 1. Determine what types of sources you are using. (i.e. books, articles, websites, etc.)**
- 2. Find a model entry for your particular types of sources and see what information is required.**
- 3. Look at your source and locate that information. (i.e. author, title, date, etc.)**
- 4. Place the information from your source in the appropriate order according the model entry.**
- 5. Alphabetize your entries!**

Sample References Page

Running Head: Concept Mapping

4

References

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Sample entry for citing a book

Chiou, C. (2008). The effect of concept mapping on students' learning achievements and interests. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 45(4), 375-387. doi: 10.1080/14703290802377240

Sample entry for citing a journal article from a database with DOI number

Note: All lines of the references page are double-spaced. This includes the lines within an entry as well as those between entries.

More Sample References

Running Head: Concept Mapping

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Hayati, A. M. & Shariatifar, S. (2009, Spring) Mapping Strategies. *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, 39(2), 53-67.

Sample entry for citing a journal article from a database with no DOI number

Novak, J.D. & Canas, A. J. (2007, September 24). *The Theory Underlying Concept Maps and How to Construct Them*. Retrieved from <http://cmap.ihmc.us/Publications/ResearchPapers/TheoryCmaps/TheoryUnderlyingConceptMaps.htm>

Sample entry for an internet article

APA Updates



- The retrieval date and the name of the database are *no longer needed* in entries for electronic articles; however, the URL is required.
 - **Note:** The retrieval date is only needed if the material has the likelihood of changing in the future.
 - The running header on all pages should contain the words “Running head” and be placed in the upper left corner of each page.
- ❖ Note: Some of this is new! If you’ve learned APA style in the past, these updates differ slightly from what you may have learned. These changes became effective July 2009.



Where To Go for more Information?

- Your friendly neighborhood Academic Support Center:
 - **Visit our site on Blackboard for more information**



- The OWL at Purdue: an excellent source for your APA style needs
 - **<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>**

Exercises

