

# 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

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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



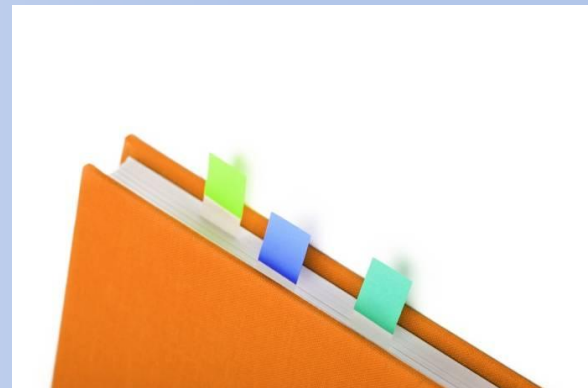
- **Author is named in the sentence with quotation:** As Smith (2008) reports, “APA is a fabulous style” (p. 37).
- **Author is named in sentence with paraphrase:** As Smith (2008) reports, the APA style appeals to many students (p. 37).
- **More than one author:** (Lewis & Duncan, 2007)

# 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

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## References

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> 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

