FORMATTING RESEARCH PAPER IN APA STYLE

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ABSTRACT: The research publication organisation employs the APA research paper format extensively. The several styles for producing research papers can be confusing to students and researchers, and they may also be unsure about what the requirements of the journals that publish research publications are. As a result, the ideal approach to start writing a research paper is to find out what the publication requires, and then proceed in accordance with those requirements. The material in the other sections of the APA research paper style is comparable and may be used as a guide for creating an excellent research paper, even though the reference section may vary over time. The paper includes information about the significance of the research paper and its usage.

KEYWORDS: APA, significance, structure, organisation, style, mechanics, in-text citation, reference citation.

INTRODUCTION

The American Psychological Association uses APA as its standard for documenting sources. The social sciences—such as psychology, anthropology, and sociology—as well as other fields—are the primary users of this type of research paper writing. Because it assists authors in presenting their ideas in a clear, accurate, and inclusive manner, APA Style serves as a basis for efficient academic communication.

The history of APA style

In an effort to create a straightforward set of principles, or style manual, that would standardize the many elements of scientific writing and facilitate easier reader comprehension, a group of psychologists, anthropologists, and business managers met in 1929 and created APA Style. Described as a "standard of procedure, to which exceptions would doubtless be necessary, but to which reference might be made in cases of doubt," their instructions were published as a seven-page article in Psychological Bulletin (Bentley et al., 1929, p. 57).

The significance of APA style

APA style is in use for several important reasons. First, APA is referred to as a citation style because it includes specific rules for citing one's work that should be formatted and indicated in your research paper. Proper citation ensures that you will never be accused of plagiarism and lets others who read your paper understand where you got your information. Second, APA style provides style and writing guidelines to make sure that your research paper is easy to read and

has all of the necessary elements. The primary purpose of APA style is to promote scientific communication by facilitating clarity of expression and standardizing the organization and content of manuscript formatting.

Ideas flow naturally, references are properly cited, and documents are regularly and predictably ordered when style is used correctly. Individuals are described in a way that upholds their dignity and sense of worth. To enable readers to assess findings and prospective replication of the studies by other researchers, the authors account for ethical compliance and disclose pertinent aspects of their study process. Data is presented in tables and figures in an eye-catching, dependable way.

The structure of APA style

APA style really consists of three levels. Organization is determined by the top level. Writing style and language usage are covered in the second level. The third level covers mechanics, including punctuation.

Level 1 - Organization

- A title - it includes maximum 12 words and there aren't abbreviations and redundancies
- An abstract - writing the key points of the paper in a summrized way. It should proceed from general into specific, including methodology and results.
- An introduction - addressing the main issue of the paper by acknowledging the previous studies in the field.
- Methodology - how the research is done, which tools are applied to collect data
- Results - the outcomes of the research
- Discussion - the significance of the outcomes
- Reference - giving credits to the authors of whose article have been used

Level 2 - Style

It should be formal to write a research paper in APA format. The people you want to speak with clearly and professionally are ones' colleagues and other academics. Thus, this indicates:

- No slang
- No culture specific words
- Formal
- Minimised literary devices
- Terminology only in appropriate meaning
- No biassed opinions

To put it another way, papers is to sound as impartial and straightforward as possible. It is advised to refrain from trying to seem sophisticated by employing colorful terminology. Say so if, for 10 minutes, you had your study participants leap up and down on one leg. A difficult sentence such as "participants utilized a unipedal movement to propel themselves off of the ground and then return to land" should not be attempted. Gender-inclusive vocabulary is to be used (firefighters

vs. firemen) when discussing biassed language. Referring to certain groups (minorities versus Asian Americans) and refraining from using euphemisms (special individuals versus adults with learning difficulties) are profound point of a successful paper.If an author is not sure about meanings of words, they are rather avoid using them.

Level 3 - Mechanics

8.5 x 11 paper with 1-inch margins and double spacing are required for APA style document layout. It is advised to use Times New Roman 12pt font. The APA Manual of Style contains several detailed guidelines for correctly formatting an APA style document in manuscript form. Among the most popular suggestions are the following:

For headers, use title case.

- For numbers ten and higher, use numerals.
- Phrasal compound adjectives (fact-checking organization, not fact-checking organization) that come before a noun
- Before using an acronym in parenthesis (the United Nations (UN)), the phrase is to be defined.
- Aligning all tables and figures to the left.
- For sources, using in-text citations.
- Employing footnotes selectively

The citation in APA style

The structure for citation in APA style is predetermined. Citations should generally be included in the text and the whole citation should be included in the "References" section at the conclusion of your work. Keep in mind that this section must be named "References" per APA guidelines. The substitutions "Works Cited" or "Bibliography" are not appropriate for APA style manuscript layout.

Whether you are referencing a journal article, book, blog post, conference paper, news item, social media post, or another kind of media will have an impact on the citation style.

In-text Citation Example

1.   According to some scholars (Lee, 2005), civil society in South Korea plays a divisive rather than a unifying role in the nation's fledgling democracy.

2.   Lee (2005) argues that civil society in South Korea plays a divisive rather than a unifying role in the nation's fledgling democracy.

References Citation Example

Lee, S. J. (2005). Democratization and polarization in Korean society. Asian Perspective, 99-125.

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