



# Encyclopedia of Psychology

[Top](#) : [Resources](#) : Writing

[[Home](#)] [[Add a Site](#)] [[Modify a Site](#)] [[New](#)] [[Popular](#)] [[Random Site](#)] [[Search](#)]

## Links:

- [APA Publication Manual Crib Sheet](#) **pop**  
This page is a summary of rules from the APA Publication Manual. APA style is the style of writing specified in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Today the manual is in its fifth edition, and the APA format described in it is a widely recognized standard for scientific writing.  
URL: <http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html>  
(Added: 10-Sep-2000 Hits: 7490)
- [APA Publication Manual Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
Frequently Asked Questions About the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.  
URL: <http://www.apastyle.org/faqs.html>  
(Added: 26-Nov-1998 Hits: 2610)
- [APA Referencing Macros](#)  
MS Word template to format and reference essays in APA Style.  
URL: <http://www.southernsoftware.com/apamacros/index.html>  
(Added: 7-Oct-2003 Hits: 2464)
- [APA Style Essentials](#)  
Guide to key elements of writing an APA-style paper.  
URL: [http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc\\_id=796](http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc_id=796)  
(Added: 27-May-2000 Hits: 6489)
- [APA Style Guide - M. Plonsky, Ph.D.](#)  
This hypertext guide is an attempt to make the style of writing used in the field of psychology clear to you. It summarizes a lot of the material available in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (4-th edition) (1995) and is oriented toward undergraduate students.  
URL: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/apa4b.htm>  
(Added: 26-Nov-1998 Hits: 2723)
- [APA-Style Documentation](#)  
A Guide for Writing Research Papers. This online guide, based on APA-style documentation forms, provides instruction on basic research techniques, paper

formatting, and numerous examples of proper (APA-based) citations for various kinds of resources.

URL: <http://wwwold.ccc.commnet.edu/apa/index.htm>

(Added: 26-Nov-1998 Hits: 4899)

- [Citing Sources](#)

Provides guidelines and examples on creating citations in APA, Chicago, MLA, and Turabian styles.

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/>

(Added: 24-Feb-2005 Hits: 1174)

- [Common Errors in English](#)

A list of common errors in English and the explanation of the correct usage.

URL: <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html>

(Added: 21-Dec-1998 Hits: 1347)

- [CONSORT](#)

To comprehend the results of a randomized controlled trial (RCT), readers must understand its design, conduct, analysis and interpretation. That goal can only be achieved through complete transparency from authors. Investigators and editors developed the original CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) statement to help authors improve reporting by using a checklist and flow diagram.

URL: <http://www.consort-statement.org/>

(Added: 26-Feb-2003 Hits: 158)

- [Creating Posters for Humanities & Social Sciences](#)

Suggestions, hints, and tips for creating and presenting a poster.

URL: <http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/poster.htm>

(Added: 14-Dec-1998 Hits: 769)

- [Electronic Reference Formats](#)

APA's recommendations on siting electronic references.

URL: <http://www.apastyle.org/eleceref.html>

(Added: 11-Sep-1999 Hits: 1219)

- [Essays and Arguments: A Handbook on Writing Argumentative and Interpretative Essays](#)

The following sections form a basic introduction to some of the more important elements in the analysis and construction of arguments. The discussion begins with some very basic ideas and moves on quickly to a few points essential for effective written or spoken argumentation. The sections are structured so as to encourage students to develop skills which will make their arguments, especially their written presentations in essays or reports, more persuasive and which will improve their ability to analyze arguments.

URL: <http://www.mala.bc.ca/~johnstoi/arguments/argument1.htm>

(Added: 29-May-2001 Hits: 1579)

- [Frequently Asked Questions about English](#)

Answers to questions about English grammar.

URL: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jlawler/aue.html>

(Added: 14-Mar-1999 Hits: 350)

- [Guide to Grammar and Style](#)

These notes are a miscellany of grammatical rules and explanations, comments on style, and suggestions on usage I put together for my classes.

URL: <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/>

(Added: 31-Mar-1999 Hits: 555)

- [Guide to Grammar and Writing](#)

A Guide to Grammar to Writing. Contains several digital handouts on grammar and English usage, over 150 computer-graded quizzes, recommendations on writing -- from basic problems in subject-verb agreement and the use of articles to exercises in parallel structures and help with argumentative essays, and a way to submit questions about grammar and writing.

URL: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>

(Added: 11-Feb-1999 Hits: 707)

- [JEAB & JABA Copyright and Permission Policy](#)

The Society for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, Inc. adheres to the policy of the American Psychological Association in granting permission to reproduce its copyrighted material: Authors must secure from the Society and from the author of reproduced material written permission to reproduce a journal article in full or journal text of more than 500 words.

URL: <http://seab.envmed.rochester.edu/society/copyright.html>

(Added: 29-Dec-2002 Hits: 95)

- [MLA Auto-Generator](#)

MLA Auto-Generator is an incredible piece of free software that allows you to quickly and effortlessly format your documents' works cited lists in accordance with the MLA or APA style guidelines.

URL: <http://mlagen.sourceforge.net/>

(Added: 7-Oct-2003 Hits: 836)

- [Modern Language Association Documentation](#)

A Guide for Writing Research Papers. This online guide, based on MLA-style documentation forms, provides instruction on basic research techniques, paper formatting, and numerous examples of proper (MLA-based) citations for various kinds of resources.

URL: <http://wwwold.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/>

(Added: 11-Sep-1999 Hits: 528)

- [ONLINE! Citation Styles](#)

Citation style information for citing Web, Email, and discussion forum sources in MLA, APA, Chicago, and CBE styles.

URL: <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>

(Added: 8-Apr-2000 Hits: 648)

- [Paradigm Online Writing Assistant](#)

Paradigm is an interactive, menu-driven, online writer's guide and handbook written in HTML and distributed freely over the WWW. Paradigm is intended to be useful for all writers, from inexperienced to advanced.

URL: <http://www.powa.org/>

(Added: 11-May-2002 Hits: 421)

- [Posting Articles on the Internet](#)

Summarizes APA's current policy on author's posting journal articles on the Web before or after publication.

URL: <http://www.apa.org/journals/posting.html>

(Added: 29-Dec-2002 Hits: 143)

- [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

The OWL is designed to offer distance learning for the Purdue community as well as other Internet users. Our primary goal is to help writers improve their writing skills by offering them a variety of online services and materials and an introduction to searching for information on the Internet.

URL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

(Added: 26-Nov-1998 Hits: 394)

- [Strunk, William. 1918. The Elements of Style](#)

This book is intended for use in English courses in which the practice of composition is combined with the study of literature. It aims to give in brief space the principal requirements of plain English style.

URL: <http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html>

(Added: 11-Dec-1998 Hits: 175)

- [Technical Writing](#)

Writers online technical writing course and resources with tips on how to write a technical report.

URL: <http://www.technical-writing-course.com/>

(Added: 7-Aug-2002 Hits: 415)

- [The Rensselaer Writing Center Handouts](#)

Information on writing various types of reports.

URL: <http://www.rpi.edu/web/writingcenter/handouts.html>

(Added: 29-Nov-1998 Hits: 396)

- [UIUC Writer's Workshop Home Page](#)

Information on writing various types of papers as well as an online grammar

handbook.

URL: <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/index.htm>

(Added: 28-Nov-1998 Hits: 303)

- [Writing-up Research Discoveries](#)

Template for writing a research paper. A list of questions step you through the major issues which must be addressed in a research paper. After each question is answered the construction of the research paper is simply developing transitions between the items.

URL: <http://www.jsu.edu/depart/psychology/sebac/fac-sch/rm/Ch4-5.html>

(Added: 28-Nov-1998 Hits: 1299)

Search

[More search options](#)

Credits



[About this site](#)

Pages Updated On: 14-Nov-2006 - 05:47:27  
Links Engine 2.0 By: [Gossamer Threads Inc.](#)

## WRITING RESEARCH (LAB) REPORTS APA STYLE

The goal of scientific writing is effective communication. An experimental report is precise and to the point: it states the question to which the experiment is addressed, the method employed, the results obtained and the relation of these results to other scientific knowledge. In addition, the usual requirements of English expository prose – such as complete sentences, accurate spelling and current grammar – apply to every research project. The following outline, based on the recommendations of the American Psychological Association\*, may be used as a guide to organizing and preparing lab reports.

These are eight parts to most published research reports. They are, in order: (1) a title; (2) the author's name and institutional affiliation; (3) an abstract; (4) an introduction; (5) a method's section; (6) a result's section; (7) a discussion section; and (8) a list of references.

- 1) TITLE. The title should summarize the main idea of the paper simply. It should be a concise statement of the main topic and should refer to the major variables you have investigated. Do not use abbreviations in the title. The recommended length for the title is 10-12 words, although shorter or longer titles are permissible.
- 2) AUTHOR'S NAME AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION. The author's name should appear as it is customarily written; that is, an author should not use initials on one manuscript and full name on a later one. Be consistent. Give your institutional affiliation as of the time the research was conducted.
- 3) ABSTRACT. An abstract is a brief summary of the contents and purpose of the article. In APA journals the abstract is used in place of a concluding summary. The abstract should not exceed approximately 120 words (short but informative). It should contain statements of (a) the problem, (b) the method, (c) the results, and (d) the findings and conclusions. Results are most important, and every abstract should at least contain the trend of the results. It is also highly desirable to state the kind and number of subjects, and the research design.
- 4) INTRODUCTION. The main body of the paper opens with the introduction. Because the function of the introduction is obvious, it is not labeled. Its purpose is to inform the reader of the specific problem under study and the research strategy. In writing the introduction, consider: What is the point of the study? What is the rationale or logical link between the problem and the research design? What are the theoretical implications of the study and its relationship to previous work in the area? A good introduction answers questions in a paragraph or two and gives the reader a sense of what you are doing and why. Discuss the pertinent

literature, but do not include an exhaustive historical review. Assume that the reader is a professional person generally familiar with the field and does not require a complete digest with each new paper. Cite only these selected studies that are pertinent to the specific issue; avoid references with ??? or general significance to the problem. In summarizing earlier works, avoid nonessential details; instead, emphasize major conclusions, findings and relevant methodological issues.

- 5). METHOD. The method section should tell your reader how the study was conducted. The method should be described in enough detail to permit an experienced investigator to replicate the study if he/she so desires. It is conventional to divide the method section into three labeled subsections: (a) Participants, (b) Apparatus (or Materials), and (c) Design and Procedures.

Participants. This subsection contains the number, kind, and relevant characteristics of the subjects employed. Three main questions are addressed: (1) Who (What) participated in the study? (2) How many participants were there? (3) How were the participants selected? Also, give major demographic characteristics, such as age and sex. When animals are used, give the number of animals used and their sex, age, and physiological condition. In addition, specify all details of their treatment and handling essential to the successful replication of the investigation. (for instance, hours of food deprivation, percent of ad libitum body weight, etc.).

Apparatus. This subsection should include a brief description of the apparatus or materials used and their function in the experiment. Standard laboratory equipment, such as furniture, stopwatches, etc. can usually be mentioned without detail. Specialized equipment obtained from a commercial establishment should be identified with the firm's name and model number. In the case of complex or custom made equipment, a drawing or photograph may be useful.

Design and Procedure. The procedure subsection should be a summary of each step in the execution of the research. It should include a description of any pre-experimental treatment of the subject (e.g. food deprivation), operations performed during the experiment, stimulus materials presented, and techniques of data collection. Remember that the method section should tell your reader what you did and how you did it.

- 6). RESULTS. In this section, the experimenter presents results in quantitative form and supports them in greater detail in figures (graphs) and/or tables. The results should summarize the collected data and your statistical treatment of them. First, briefly state the main idea of your results or findings. Then, report the data in sufficient detail to justify your

subsequent conclusions. Note all the relevant results, including those that run counter to your hypotheses. It is not appropriate to discuss the implications of the results in this subsection (save the implications for your DISCUSSION section). In addition to summarizing the main findings in the narrative form, you should present detailed summaries of your results in tables or figures. Do not repeat the same data in several places, and do not include tables with data that can be presented as well in a few sentences in the text. Use as few tables or figures as possible without hindering communication of your findings. Refer to all graphs, pictures or drawings as “figures” and to all tables as “tables.” Figures and tables supplement the text; do not expect them to do the entire communication job. Always refer the reader to the figures and tables with sufficient explanation to make them readily intelligible. In reporting tests of significance (t, f, etc), include information concerning the obtained magnitude or value of the test, the degrees of freedom, the probability level and the direction of the effect. Assume that your reader has professional knowledge of statistics. Basic assumptions, such as rejecting the null hypothesis should not be reviewed. Caution: Do not infer trends from data that fail by a small margin to meet the usual levels of significance.

- 7). DISCUSSION. Here the experimenter relates the findings of the experiment to findings reported by other investigators. Furthermore, the discussion points out the limitations of the conclusions, notes, correspondences or differences between the findings and widely-accepted points of view, and briefly gives the implications of the findings. The experimenter may draw inferences from the results of the experiment and give alternative interpretations, but the bases these firmly on his research findings. Open the discussion with a clear statement on the support of nonsupport of your original hypothesis (hypotheses). In general, be guided by the following questions: (1) What have I contributed here? (2) How was my study helped to resolve the original problem? (3) What conclusions and theoretical implications can I draw from my study? These questions are the core of your study, and readers have a right to clear, unambiguous and direct answers.
- 8). References. Every article concludes with a list of all references cited in the text. These reference citations document statements made about the literature. Choose references judiciously and cite them accurately.

Although rarely submitted to an APA journal, an APPENDIX is appropriate in a laboratory report. Inclusion of an appendix will help your instructor evaluate your paper. Some examples that may be included in the appendix are: (1) Raw scores and computations used in statistical analyses; (2) a new computer program specifically designed for your research and unavailable elsewhere.

\*Publication Manual (Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 1994).