APA Style Guide:

A Sample Paper

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Abstract

The Abstract part of an APA style paper is simply a detailed paragraph that presents a brief overview of the paper, emphasizing key ideas and briefly explaining the research procedures. The following style guide is an example for BVHS students to use when writing formal American Psychological Association (APA) style research papers. APA style research papers are typically produced in Math, Science, and Social Studies courses. Although students may be familiar with the research process, it is important to understand how APA differs from MLA guidelines. The title page of an APA style paper, for example, includes a Running Head that is typed in ALL CAPS at the top of page one, but also appears in normal caps in the header of each page of the research paper.
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A Sample Paper

This is an example of an American Psychological Association (APA) style research paper. Blue Valley High School students should follow this model when composing and submitting papers in science, math and social studies classes. Please pay attention to the margins, indents, font, line spacing, and citation information. Check with your teacher for instructions on the title page, author note, and abstract. Each page of the paper has a running head (brief title) at the top of the page and a page number. Arrange the pages of the manuscript in the following order. The first page is the title page followed by an abstract (if required), the text of the paper and the reference page. Each section starts on a separate page.

Format Items

As you can see, there is a double space between every line of the paper. It is a common mistake to put too many spaces around the title, so be careful. APA papers use Times New Roman and are typed in size 12 font. When you decide to use information you learned from a resource, regardless if you put it in your own words or not, you must provide parenthetical documentation to give credit to the source (Bixler, 2005). In formatting these quotes, if your quote is longer than 40 words, you must block it:

Display the quote in a freestanding block of text and omit the quotation marks. Start such a block quotation on a new line and indent the block about a half inch from the left margin. If there are additional paragraphs within the quotation, indent the first line of each an additional half inch. Double space the entire quotation. At the end of a block quotation, cite the quoted source and page or paragraph number in parentheses after the final punctuation mark. (Bixler, 2005, pp. 75-76)
Also, according to modern grammar rules “a quote that is not connected to something is a grammatical mistake” (Fay, 2007). Therefore, if you want to use a quote from a reliable source, you must establish a context for it in your own writing. Writers should avoid ending paragraphs with quotations because the writer needs to explain the relevance of the quote.

**Discussion**

The final portion of your paper is the Discussion or Conclusion section. Open the discussion section with a clear statement of the support or nonsupport of your original hypothesis. Do not simply reformulate and repeat points already made; each new statement should contribute to your interpretation and to the reader’s understanding of the problem. Your References acknowledge the work of other scholars and provide a way to locate it. The standard procedures for citation ensure that references are accurate, complete, and useful to the reader. Start the reference list on a new page. The word References should appear in uppercase and lowercase letters, centered. Double space all reference entries. Use the hanging indent format, meaning that the first line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented.
References


Libby, L. (personal communication, May 1, 2007).

