



APA/MLA guidelines

STYLE MANUAL & EDITION

- This is a brief guide to American Psychological Association (APA) and Modern Language Association (MLA) rules used in academic writing.
- **Important:** The rules covered in this guide are accurate according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* 7th edition (2020) and the *MLA Handbook* 8th edition (2016). Each new APA and MLA edition contains changes and additions not found in previous editions.

APA STYLE 7th Edition

What Is APA Style?

- APA style does not refer to a writing style; rather, it is the editorial style developed by the American Psychological Association for use in the books and journals it publishes. Other social and behavioral sciences have also adopted APA style for their own written material.
- Editorial style refers to the rules or guidelines a publisher uses to ensure consistent presentation of written material; it includes:
 - Punctuation and abbreviations
 - Reference citation
 - Table construction
 - Using electronic references
 - Heading selection
 - Presenting statistics

Writing for the Behavioral & Social Sciences

Data Retention & Sharing

- It is the responsibility of researchers to give editors access to their information at any point in the publication process, even after publication.
- Authors should keep their data for at least five years after the publication date.

Plagiarism & Self-Plagiarism

- **Plagiarism:** It is expected that researchers will give proper credit for their research and not present the work of others as their own.
- **Self-plagiarism:** Researchers should not present their own past publications as new scholarship.

Conflict of Interest

It is best to note any activities or relationships that could appear to constitute a conflict of interest, even if the researcher doesn't believe they exist.

Manuscript Structure & Content

Journal Article Reporting Standards

Reporting standards are not based on topical focus; rather, they are based on research design and implementation of the actual study.

Manuscript Elements

1. **Running head:** Only include for manuscripts being submitted for publication; should be no longer than 50 characters.
 - A. **For student papers:** Do not use a running head.
 - B. **Avoid abbreviations in the running head.**
2. **Page number:** Include at the top of each page on the same line as the running head, flush right.
3. **Title**
4. **Author's name, or name of each author**
5. **Institutional affiliation of each author**
 - A. **For student papers:** Include the course name and number, instructor name, and due date.
6. **Author note:** Not required for student papers.
 - A. **First paragraph:** Complete departmental affiliation; include the ORCID ID if available.
EX: John Smith, Department of Sociology, State University.
EX: Jill Jones, Department of Sociology, State University.
 - B. **Second paragraph:** Affiliation changes (if any).
 - C. **Third paragraph:** Acknowledgments (e.g., grants, financial support, and thanks for personal assistance with the manuscript) and special circumstances (e.g., data used in a previously published report or doctoral dissertation and conflicts of interest).
 - D. **Fourth paragraph:** Contact information. Include your complete mailing address and email address with no period at the end the paragraph.
EX: Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed

to Robert T. Scholar, Department of Engineering, State University, Yountown, NC 11111. Email: rtscholar@statesu.edu

7. **Abstract:** A brief, concise summary of the article's contents. Not required for student papers.
8. **Keywords:** A list of significant words that appear in the manuscript. The list should begin with *Keywords:* in italic type followed by a list of words separated by commas in roman type. Not required for student papers.
9. **Introduction:** An outline of the specific problem and the author's research strategy.
10. **Method:** A detailed examination of how the study was conducted.
11. **Results:** A summary of the data collected and the subsequent analysis.
12. **Discussion:** An analysis of the importance and meaning of the research results that also draws from other cited sources.
13. **Multiple experiments** (if applicable)
14. **Meta-analysis:** A concise synthesis of the research.
15. **References**
16. **Footnotes**
 - A. **Content footnotes** supplement or amplify significant information.
 - B. **Copyright permission footnotes** acknowledge the source of lengthy quotations, scale and test items, figures, and tables that have been reprinted or adapted.
17. **Appendices and supplemental materials**

Writing Clearly & Concisely

Headings

- Headings show how:
 - The parts of your paper work together
 - Your paper is organized by indicating which parts are equally important and how each part relates to the others
- APA utilizes five heading formats:

Centered, Bold, Title Case Heading

Flush Left, Bold, Title Case Heading

Flush Left, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading

Indented, Bold, Title Case Heading, Ending With a Period.

Indented, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading, Ending With a Period.

- When using headings:

- Do **not** use a heading for the introduction of your paper.
- Use the same heading level for topics of equal importance.
- Be sure that each heading is followed by at least two subheadings or none at all. Do **not** divide your topic or subtopic into a single entry.
- Do **not** label headings with numbers or letters, as in an outline.

Reducing Bias in Language

- Use the appropriate level of specificity.
EX: Using the word *man* to represent humanity is not as accurate as using the phrase *individuals* or *people*.
- Differences of any kind should be described only when relevant.
- Be sensitive to labels.
 - Use the singular "they" for a person who uses "they" as their pronoun.
 - Avoid using adjectives as nouns to label people (e.g., *the gays*, *the poor*).
 - Call people what they call themselves.
 - Person-first language (e.g., *a person with paraplegia*), identity-first language (e.g., *an autistic person*), or both may be acceptable.
- Avoid false hierarchies.
 - Use parallel designations for groups (e.g., compare gay men with straight men or lesbians, not the general public).
 - When referring to multiple social groups, don't put groups in order of social dominance by default (e.g., *men and women*, *white Americans* and *racial minorities*).

Reducing Bias by Topic

- **Gender:** Cultural refers to a person's role, not their biological sex.
- Use the singular "they" for individuals whose identified pronouns are not known.

Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic

Ying-Ying Zheng



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Table of Contents Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic

1. Understanding the eBook Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic User Reviews and Ratings
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic Free and Paid eBooks
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic Public Domain eBooks
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic eBook Subscription Services
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic Compatibility with Devices
 - Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Interactive Elements Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
8. Staying Engaged with Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Setting Reading Goals Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Apa Or Mla Guidelines Quick Study Academic
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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