

The running head should be on the same line as the page number. The words "Running head:" are only included on the title page. Use the "Insert Header" function and select "Different first page" to create this header. The shortened title within the header is in all capital letters.

Creating Success: APA Sample

Susan Smith

Chamberlain College of Nursing

NR-351: Transitions in Professional Nursing

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Creating Success: APA Sample

The full title is repeated here, centered but not bold. Do not use the heading introduction.

Citation
format
author and
year

The first paragraph is the introduction to the paper. "Because the introduction is clearly identified by its position in the manuscript, it does not carry a heading labeling it the

If a quote is used, add the page number

introduction" (American Psychological Association [APA], 2010, p. 27). The introduction should begin with something that will grab the reader's attention. Next, support the opening sentence with added discussion or explanation including information about why this topic is important. The end of the introduction should highlight the paper's purpose and topics that will be covered in the paper. APA success requires knowledge of the format and skill for clear written communication.

Preparing to Write

A level 1 heading is centered and bold

A key to quality writing is developing an outline that includes all of the assignment criteria. The assignment guidelines outline the criteria. An outline provides a framework to make writing the paper easy. Once the outline is created, one can build support by locating resources that are applicable to the outline topics. The outline will also help suggest logical headings and subheadings. However, the outline is not typed into the paper. Rather, the outline is an organizational tool used to create a more focused paper.

Use "and" for multiple authors
when cited in sentence form**Successful Writing**

When the authors are cited in the sentence, only the date is placed in parentheses after the authors' names

According to Oman, Mancuso, Ceballos, Makic, and Fink (2016), roadblocks to successful writing include (a) not having enough time, (b) difficulty getting starting, and (c) concern about topic selection. Allow adequate time to not only write, but also to edit the assignment. The best writing requires multiple drafts, each one improving on its predecessor by increasing its clarity, improving organization, and making it more concise.

Supporting Ideas

A level 2 heading is at the left margin and bold

The writer systematically provides the discussion, pros and cons, comparisons, or other evidence about the topic in the body of the paper. The body should include citations to various sources to support ideas and thoughts. Without citations, the paper becomes an opinion piece and not a scholarly presentation. Each resource must be evaluated to ensure that it is valid and credible. Be sure to give credit where credit is due so that the sources influencing your writing are credited (Oermann & Hays, 2016).

Use the "&" sign for multiple authors cited in

In text citations at the end of a sentence are in parentheses and include the author(s) and date separated by a comma. Place the period *after* the end parenthesis.

Professional writing is not conversational writing. Avoid posing questions, improper word forms, or the use of slang. Personal opinion is only appropriate in scholarly work when specifically requested in the guidelines for that assignment.

APA Basics

APA format basics include margins of one inch on all four sides, font in Times New Roman size 12, double-spacing throughout, use of headings, and references with one-half inch hanging indents (APA, 2010). The body of the paper must have multiple paragraphs. Put only one main idea in per paragraph. Every paragraph should have at least three sentences with a transition sentence to the next section. Citations provide the reader with a link to the reference page and a way to obtain detailed information about a point made by the writer. APA has a standard format for citations and the reference page (APA, 2010). When in doubt, use the *APA Manual*. Be sure to use the sixth edition.

Run spell check and make sure grammar and punctuation are correct. If something is underlined in red or green, use the mouse and right click over the underlined area to see recommendations for either spelling or grammar changes. It helps to read the paper aloud during the final edit, as the spelling and grammar check will not catch every error. Chamberlain also offers a free writing tutoring to assist with writing style and basic APA format. A self-directed

student will access resources to assist in acquiring expertise in APA format and professional writing.

Conclusion

Papers should end with a conclusion or summary. It should be concise and summarize the main points in the paper. An interesting conclusion about the information should be provided.

Avoid adding new information into the conclusion. Scholarly professional writing is a skill that requires knowledge and practice. A writer can begin to gain skill by locating resources, understanding the basic APA format, and applying the suggestions in this paper.

The *APA Manual* is only listed here because it was cited in this paper. Normally, this will NOT appear on your reference page.

References

The word "References" is centered but not bold.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Example of a book. Note: the publisher's name the same as the author.

Oermann, M. H., & Hays, J. C. (2016). *Writing for publication in nursing* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC.

Example of a book where the publisher is different from the author

Oman, K. S., Mancuso, M. P., Makic, M., & Fink, R. M. (2016). Mentoring clinical nurses to write for publication: Strategies for success. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 116(5):48-55. doi:10.1097/01.naj.0000482966.46919.0f

Example of a journal with a DOI. Do not include the permalink with the reference.

Note: references are alphabetized by the last name of the first author. Do not change the order of the authors within a reference.