

What Is APA?

Undergraduate students usually write APA style papers for behavioral sciences and social science courses. As a result, you may find that some explanations about APA (American Psychological Association) style papers tell students that the paper must be divided into sections, such as Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion. Obviously, this format works only if what you are writing about involves the testing of a hypothesis. However, for the paper you will write in this class, and in many of your undergraduate level courses, you will not be conducting an experiment or writing a hypothesis. You will most likely be writing an informative or argumentative paper, and you will not need to use subsection headings of the type listed above. You may, however, choose to include subheadings for specific topics in the paper although you do not need to do so.

Here is a general overview of APA style. At the bottom of each page, click “next” to proceed to the following screen in order to read through the full APA Unit on Lumen Learning:

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/styleguide/chapter/why-is-apa-documentation-important/>.

Your APA paper assignment in this unit will consist of the following sections:

1. First two pages: Title page and abstract
 1. Purdue OWL provides examples of title page and abstract:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html.
 2. Description of what to include in abstracts:
<https://www.uhv.edu/student-success-center/resources/a-d/abstracts-in-apa-format/>.
 3. Sample abstract page:
<https://writingcommons.org/abstract-template-apa>.
2. The introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion of your essay, formatted as you would an argument. You may include subheadings for the major points in your argument, but it is not strictly necessary for this assignment.
3. The list of references formatted in APA style at the end of the paper.

Here is a sample APA paper format:

[Sample Essay - APA 6th Edition \(by Stephen A. McDonald, Liberty University\)](#)

For further discussion of APA Style, visit the following MDC Library Guide Page:

<http://libraryguides.mdc.edu/apa>