

APA Style

- Example, hints and tips for writing your Psyc 362 Project Paper in APA style

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APA headings: 5 levels

First Level

The first level is bold and centered, and each word is capitalized. The paragraph that follows it is indented.

Second Level

The second level is bold and flush left and each word is capitalized. The paragraph which follows it is on a new line and indented.

Third level. The third level is bold, indented, and followed by a period. Only the first word is capitalized. Notice there is no line break : the next sentence starts on the same line.

Fourth level. The fourth level is bold, italic, and indented. Words are not capitalized. There is no line break.

Fifth level. The fifth level is italic and indented. Words are not capitalized. There is no line break.

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APA Style Paper

- Abstract
- Background
- Review
- Discussion
- References
- Tables & Figures

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Style

- “If I had more time, I would have written you a shorter letter”

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Abstract

- Not an introduction paragraph
- Summarizes the *important* points of your paper
- Only restate points in your paper
 - do not put anything unique in the abstract
- Best to write it last:
 - each section of your paper gets 1-2 summary sentences in the Abstract
 - follow same outline as paper
- Length: 150 - 250 words

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Background

- Review the topic...
- Introduce the Original Paper (and provide APA reference)
- Introduce the CogLab version of the experiment (and provide APA reference)

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Background: High Level Construct

- Describe and define the topic within Cognitive psychology
- Generally this would be the same as one of the chapters or a sub section
- For example, **Attention** might be the high-level construct, or it could be a little more specific, e.g. **Input Attention**
- (1-2 paragraphs in length)

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Background: Specific Construct

- Define and describe the specific construct or theory being tested
- For example ***Spotlight Attention***
- (1-2 paragraphs in length)

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Review

- Summarize Original Paper (if more than one experiment, choose the most relevant)
 - Subjects, Materials and Methods
 - IV
 - DV
 - Results
 - Conclusions
- Summarize CogLab Experiment
 - (ditto)

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Discussion

- Compare/Contrast the two experiments
- Important Differences in
 - Subjects
 - Materials & Methods
 - Measures (IV and DV)
 - Results

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Conclusion

- Is the CogLab data consistent with with and supports the old paper?
- Or does the data raises some questions or perhaps even contradicts the old paper?

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Numbers

- Use 3 *significant digits*
- Example:
 - 0.000234552 → 0.000235
 - 1976234 → 198000
 - 1.23456 → 1.23
 - 12.96 → 13.0

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Tables & Figures

- In APA Style
 - “Tables” are Tables
 - “Figures” include Figures, Graphs, Pictures, Diagrams, etc.
- For this paper:
 - I prefer figures & tables inline (within the body) but you can also locate them at the end of paper if you prefer.

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Table Example

- APA Style for Tables
 - Title is *above* the table
 - Note (if any) is below the table

Table 1: Mean (SD) taste ratings for each seasoning group

Salt	Pepper	Salt + Pepper
4.0 (2.7)	3.0* (1.8)	5.0* (1.2)

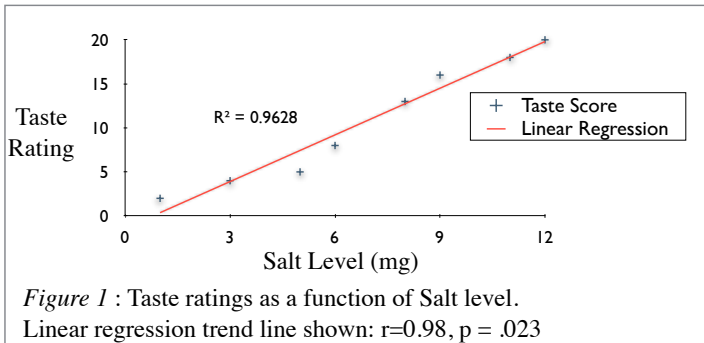
Note: * denotes groups significantly different by T-Test at $p < .05$

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Figure Example

- *Caption* is required below the figure
 - notes (optional) are within the caption
- *Legend* is within the figure (optional)



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Figures : Hints

- Figures (includes Graphs and Tables)
 - must be numbered
 - must have a Caption underneath
 - must be referred to in text
 - Avoid color / shading unless necessary
- Graphs
 - Y axis : usually the DV
 - X axis : usually the IV
 - Label the axes well

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