

Wrangler Rick's Example of a Perfectly Formatted APA Paper

Wrangler Rick

Period 1

September 30, 2010

West Career and Technical Academy

### Abstract

On a new page, center and type the word “Abstract” as the title of the page. Starting on the next line, type a concise paragraph that is approximately 120 words that explains your topic, your research questions, participants, methods, results and conclusions. Every new paragraph should be indented 5 spaces. This paragraph is a summary of everything in the paper. It prepares the reader to digest your research. Like the rest of your paper, it is typed in 12-point font, it is double-spaced and has one-inch margins. This is an example of what 120 words looks like. This is an example of what 120 words looks like. This is an example of what 120 words looks like. This is an example of what 120 words looks like. This is an example of what 120 words looks like.

### Wrangler Rick's Example of a Perfectly Formatted APA Paper

In beginning an appropriately styled paper, one must first introduce the topic; here, it is proper style. A quality paper will have an introductory paragraph that gives background on the topic and sets up the author's main idea. This main idea should come near the end of the paragraph. This is called a thesis statement. A thesis also gives organization to the paper because it tells the reader exactly what topics will be covered and in what order. A well-written paper will provide enough evidence and illustration to prove that the thesis statement is true. The introduction (which is not labeled) begins on the line following the paper title. Headings are used to organize the document and reflect the relative importance of sections. For example, many research articles utilize Methods, Results, Discussion, and References headings. Main headings use centered, boldface, uppercase and lowercase letters (e.g., **Method**, **Results**).

In order to avoid plagiarism, source material must be documented in the body of the paper by citing the author(s) and date(s) of the sources. This is to give proper credit to the ideas and words of others. The reader can obtain the full source citation from the list of references that follows the body of the paper. When the names of the authors of a source are part of the formal structure of the sentence, the year of the publication appears in parenthesis following the identification of the authors, e.g., Eby (2001, p.33). When the authors of a source are not part of the formal structure of the sentence, both the authors and years of publication appear in parenthesis, separated by semicolons, e.g. (Eby and Mitchell, 2001, p. 18; Passerallo, Pearson, & Brock, 2000, p. 40).

When a source that has three, four, or five authors is cited, all authors are included the first time the source is cited. When that source is cited again, the first authors' surname and "et al." are used.

When a direct quotation is used, always include the author, year, and page number as part of the citation. A quotation of fewer than 40 words should be enclosed in double quotation marks and should be incorporated into the formal structure of the sentence. A longer quote of 40 or more words should appear (without quotes) in block format with each line indented five spaces from the left margin. It looks like this:

This is the long quote from an author. This quote is more than 40 words because this author is very long-winded and likes to hear himself speak. He is very smart and very well liked so everyone buys his books. This is the long quote. This is the long quote (Cotton 2010, p.23).

The references section begins on a new page. The heading is centered on the first line below the manuscript page header. The references (with hanging indent) begin on the line following the references heading. Entries are organized alphabetically by surnames of first authors. Most reference entries have three components:

1. Authors: Authors are listed in the same order as specified in the source, using surnames and initials. Commas separate all authors.

2. Year of Publication: In parenthesis following authors, with a period following the closing parenthesis. If no publication date is identified, use “n.d.” in parenthesis following the authors.

3. Source Reference: Includes title, journal, volume, pages (for journal article) or title, city of publication, publisher (for book).

## References

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doi:10.1108/03090560710821161