

Writing Review

Psych 382

Outline



- Components of a good paper
- Common errors that drive teachers nuts
- APA style review
- Tips for becoming a better writer

Components of a “good” paper

- Introduction- should be concise. Present the purpose of the paper quickly and thoroughly.
- Body- this is the “meat” of your paper.
 - Create an outline beforehand so you don’t miss anything.
 - For each main point give at least one example or citation.
 - Use transition sentences to get from one point to the next.
<http://deborahowen.wordpress.com/2012/02/28/how-to-create-good-transition-sentences/>
- Conclusion. Summarize the main points.

Common Errors



- Grammatical errors:
 - where vs were
 - Their vs there vs they're
 - Affect vs effect
 - Affect is a verb, effect is a noun
 - E.g.: "The government shut down affects all Americans, but it will take longer for the upper classes to feel the effect."
- Punctuation or lack thereof
 - Run-on sentences
 - Lack of proof reading
 - SPELL CHECK!



APA Style



- Times New Roman
- 12" Font
- 1" margins on all sides
- Double-spaced
- Page number in the right, top of page
- 3 pages max (excl. references)

APA Style



- Cite all sources
- Do NOT use direct quotations
 - Put it in your own words, demonstrates understanding!
- Citing sources:
 - Within text: “According to Johnson, Rust and Smith (2001) the data supporting...”
 - OR
 - At the end of a sentence: (Johnson, Rust & Smith, 2001).
- 2nd citation for the same article: (Johnson et al., 2001).
 - Et al., can be used if there are 3 or more authors

Theory Application



- Pick one theory
- Read about that theory in the text book
- Use the reference section of your textbook to look up the original source.
- Obtain the original source from the library/online.
- Read source and cite source in term paper.
- One additional source is needed on the topic.



- This paper is similar to the literature review section of a research paper.
- Should include summary of the research questions, design, participants and findings.
- Must include how the findings apply (or not) to a modern day example.
- No: Cover Page, Abstract, Methods, Results, Discussion or Running Head
- Reference Page.
 - At the end of paper
 - not included as part of page count
 - <http://creativegenius.hubpages.com/hub/Format-a-References-Page-in-APA-Style>

References

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Writing Tips



- Try not to edit your first draft
 - Creating and editing are 2 separate things
- Always have at least one other person edit your work
 - Be able to take criticism
- Read more
 - Avid readers automatically become better writers
- Cut out what is not necessary
 - remove all vagueness and redundancy
 - Delete whole sections or reorder for clarity

Writing Tips



- Write using simple language
 - Demonstrates understanding
- Keep tense consistent
- Don't repeat the same word too many times
- Be interested in what you are writing; if it is interesting to write, it will be interesting to read.
- In research papers, avoid opinion statements and stick to the facts.