Writing Your Research Paper (APA Style)

UBMS STAFF

UTA Upward Bound Math and Science

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March ICCP involves a…

- Research paper competition!
  - Have fun!
  - Make the research paper your own, pick a topic that interests you

- Details
  - The March ICCP has you do an outline for your paper the actual paper isn't due until *April 30th*
  - Freshmen turn in a *Summary* page but please do more if you would like
  - Sophomores turn in an *Abstract* (basically a detailed summary) but you must write more than a page and include more details
  - Juniors turn in a complete *Research* paper (abstract, intro, body paragraphs, and conclusion)
  - Everyone will turn in a reference page with their final report

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APA Style? What's that?

- Your teachers may have taught you MLA style for writing papers, however, when writing a scientific paper (including social and behavioral sciences) you will be using APA
- It stands for American Psychological Association, which sets the guidelines
- It will be used in college so let's go ahead and practice it!
- When you get to college there will be a few minor changes to APA style

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Format

- Standard paper with one-inch margins on each side
- Font: Times New Roman
- Lines on the title page and throughout the paper should be double-spaced
- At the top left of each page should be the title of your paper in all capital letters, and the page number should be at the top right
- In the middle of your paper, you should have your title on one line, then the names of the research participants (people who conducted the research) on the second line, and normally the institution where the research was conducted is on the last line (you can put your high school or Upward Bound Math & Science)
- But on your title page you should type "Running head: TITLE OF YOUR PAPER"

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Title Page

Running head: SMARTPHONES ON ATTENTION SPAN   1

The Effects of Smartphones on the Attention Span of Young Adults

John T. Taylor, George Kotler and Dennis G. Parker

University of California, Berkeley

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Abstract Page

- Should summarize your research in a concise (clear) way
- Don't use unnecessary verbiage (wording) just stick to the facts and explain your research in a direct way
- Avoid using figurative language like metaphors, alliteration, poetic devices, etc.
- An <u>abstract</u> is a summary and is normally read to see what a publication is about before reading it (as most publications and long and difficult reading)

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Abstract (summary) page

SHORT PAPER TITLE   2

Abstract

What is the problem? Outline the objective, problem statement, research questions and hypotheses. What has been done? Explain your method. What did you discover? Summarize the key findings and conclusions. What do the findings mean? Summarize the discussion and recommendations. What is the problem? Outline the objective, problem statement, research questions and hypotheses. What has been done? Explain your method. What did you discover? Summarize the key findings and conclusions. What do the findings mean? Summarize the discussion and recommendations. What is the problem? Outline the objective, problem statement, research questions and hypotheses. What has been done? Explain your method. What did you discover? Summarize the key findings and conclusions. What do the findings mean? Summarize the discussion and recommendations. What is the problem? Outline the objective, problem statement, research questions and hypotheses. What has been done? Explain your method. What did you discover? Summarize the key findings and conclusions. What do the findings mean? Summarize the discussion and recommendations. What is the problem? Outline the objective, problem statement, research questions and hypotheses. What has been done? Explain your method. What did you discover? Summarize the key findings and conclusions. What do the findings mean? Summarize the discussion and recommendations.

Keywords: medical, bio, innovation, engineering

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Using in Text Citations

- There are two types of in-text citations: narrative and parenthetical
  - *Narrative:* shows the author's last name in the sentence itself (make sure to include the year of the publication in parenthesis after listing the last names of the authors)
    - Silguero, Rodriguez, and Arias (2019) encourage students to stay in Upward because it exposes them to the college application process. In their study they found that 80% of students they surveyed who were in an Upward Bound were more likely to complete a college application compared to 50% of students who were not in an Upward Bound program.
  - *Parenthetical:* the author's name(s) are in parentheses, usually at the end of the **fact or quote**
    - In a study of 500 students Upward Bound 80% of them were more likely to complete a college degree compared to 50% of 500 non-Upward Bound students. (Silguero, Perez, & Arias, 2019, p. 22)

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Research Report-Paper (UBMS activity)

- 3-5 pages long
- Introduction (normally 1-2 paragraphs long)
- Body (the longest part of the paper)
- Conclusion
- Research information

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Research Paper- *Introduction*

- Introduce your topic
- Get the reader interested in the topic
- Provide background on the topic
- Provide any information and definitions that the reader would need to know in order to understand the research
- Mention your position on your research topic
- Give an overview of how you will present the information in the paper
- Detail your research problem/question
  - *Example:* What impact have university fraternity regulations at the University of Texas at Arlington had on the frequency of reported hazing incidents at UTA?
  - You want your research problem to be specific and not too broad

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Research paper-*Body*

- Methods- how you conducted your research, how you collected information and, how you analyzed the data (if applicable)
  - Here you can talk about how you found the information, like if you used google scholar etc.
  - Normally in a publication, here you would list your experiments etc.
- Results- What you found out from collecting data or researching information through various sources
- Make sure that you use reputable and credible sources
  - Don't use websites like Wikipedia, where anyone can edit the information
  - A good way of knowing if a source is reputable is if it is *written by professionals in that field* (like a blog column about diabetes written by an M.D.) or if it has been through an extensive review process such as peer reviewed articles (journal publications etc.) or articles that are released by unbiased news outlets

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Research Paper- *Conclusion*

- Highlight the clear points of your research paper
- Summarize your thoughts/opinions/claims about your research
- What you learned/discovered
- List if your initial predictions were correct or incorrect and why
- List any future directions or implications of your research (if applicable)
- Demonstrate the importance of your research
  - In this instance, you can talk about how it was important your learning
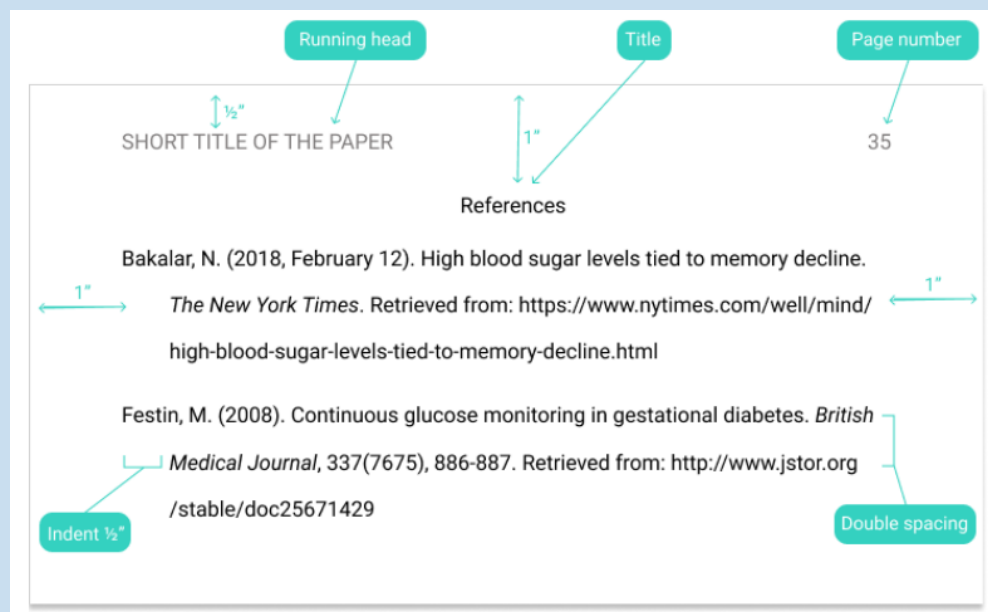 - Maybe how what you discovered from your research can be useful to you or other people in the future

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Reference Page

- Is a separate page at the end of your paper where all sources you cited in the main text are listed, in this case, your sources will be cited in APA format (specific formatting on slide 11)
- The references are **sorted alphabetically**, **double spaced**, and formatted using a **hanging indent** of ½ inch
- Use **"References" as page heading**

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Reference Page

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How to Write Your Reference Page Based on the Type of Source

- **BOOK:** Last name, First name. (Year published). *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher
- **JOURNAL ARTICLE:** Last name, First name. (Year published). Article title. *Journal title, Volume number* (issue number), page numbers.
- **WEBSITE:** Last name, First name. (Year published). Article Title. *Journal title, Volume number* (issue number). Retrieved from https://www.enteraddresshere.com/
- **FILM:** Last name, First name (Producer), Last name, First name (Director). (Year published). *Film title* [Motion picture]. Country of publication: Studio name.
- **INTERVIEW:** Any interviews, emails, or letters need to be included in the Reference List. When you cite them in the body of your paper, simply include the following citation format at the end of the sentence: (Name of Interviewee, personal communication, date of communication).

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Writing Your **Research Paper**

- Step 1: Understand the Assignment
- Step 2: Select a Topic
- Step 3: Initial Planning, Investigation, and Outlining
- Step 4: Accumulate Research Materials
- Step 5: Make a Final Outline to Guide Writing
- Step 6: Write the Paper
- Step 7: Revise and Proofread

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Final Advice

- You may not be an expert (yet) on your chosen topic but it is better to do something even if you are afraid than to not do it at all

- It's great practice for college

- Don't hesitate to ask for help at school or with us

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