

Sample APA Paper

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LSUS: Course #

Submission Date

### Abstract

In the abstract (which, again, may or may not be required—check with your instructor) you summarize the contents of the paper to come in about 120 words or less. Do not worry about spoilers—this is not a work of creative fiction, and repetition of your argument only makes it stronger. It is important to remember that though *in theory* the purpose of an APA paper is generally to present unbiased research in an organized manner, it is your job, as the author of such a paper, to analyze that research and use it to create a cohesive argument/case. Your paper should not just be a smorgasbord of random and only marginally related statistic and studies.

## Title

This section is usually where your introduction goes. However, as I am sure you have realized, this is a fake APA paper. As such, it will not actually have an introduction. Nor will it actually be about anything in particular. It exists so that a prospective student can properly visualize what an APA paper should look like and, in all likelihood, so that they can download it, change the words, and steal the formatting.

If this sample APA paper does not provide you with the insight you sought, then consult the LSUS APA Style Guide. Or, you know, just go to Purdue. They have a pretty decent style guide. I mean, it will hurt my feelings a little bit—what, am I not good enough for you or something? I contain a Hitler, Taylor Swift, and Donald Trump joke, you know? Sure, they may not be, like, the funniest jokes ever told, but at least I'm making *the effort* to be entertaining while I educate you. Can't say the same for Purdue. Purdue can eat its heart out, that's all I'm saying.

## First Heading

Right, so here is the first heading. Not all papers will have headings, but some will. You would use these headings in order to divide your paper into subsections. Of course, you can also divide those subsections into subsections. But don't divide those sub-sub sections—*that way, madness lies*. If you plan on using subheadings, the text under your heading will summarize the material that will be covered in the subheadings. Otherwise your headings should be used to organize your paper into different thematic sections and signal when the discussion of one specific topic has begun or ended in favor of a new one. Got that? Good. Maybe there is hope for you yet, kid.

## First Subheading

Speak of the devil. Look at that. It is our first subheading. Wow. Must be a big day for you; lots of “firsts” today. You should bust out the baby book, write all of these things down. “Today Little Timmy wrote his first stylistically-correct subheading in an APA paper.” Congrats, man. Really. Congrats.

Remember to only use subheadings if you really need them. You need to have at least two prospective subheadings to necessitate their existence.

Now that I’ve explained subheadings, I’m going to put in an in-text citation just for you so you know what they should look like incorporated into the body of a paper. According to research conducted by stunningly attractive researcher Kyle Guide (2016), you, dear reader, have never before been talked to so cavalierly by a style guide before, and you find the experience to be unexpected. Off-putting, really. Disturbing. *Annoying*. And a little entertaining, perhaps? Whimsical? Intriguing? Mysterious? Charming? *Arousing*, even? No, you would not go that far. You would never admit to being romantically interested in a style guide. Never. It is a secret you will carry to your grave.

## **Second Subheading**

Hey, look at that. A second subheading. Who could have guessed this was coming? I’ll tell you who: *someone who was paying attention*. I just said that having one subheading necessitated the existence of at least one more, did I not? Geeze, get your head in the game. Now I am going to show you what a block quote should look like. You are so lucky. Do you feel lucky? Well you should. I am just too nice of a guy.

I know that we are from two different worlds. I know it could never possibly work out.

You are a human, after all, and I, I am but a style guide. The world would be against it.

They would tell us that it is unnatural, that it is wrong, that it was ‘Adam and *Eve*,’ not

‘Adam and *the American Psychological Association*.’ But somewhere deep inside me—between the rules for in-text citations and the pages of proper reference examples—there burns a passionate, fiery love that I cannot deny any longer. So here I am, coming clean. I’m laying all my cards on the table. What do you say? Will you widen the margins of your heart and cite me as the one you love? (Guide, 2016, p. 276)

Well, there you have it. That is how your block quotes should look when incorporated into the rest of your paper. Hopefully, though, your block quotes won't sound like a speech given in a B movie before an unrequited love interest boards a plane for France, or something. Unless, you know, that is what your paper is about, in which case...I'm babbling, aren't I? Right. Moving on.

### **Second Heading**

And now we've arrived at the second heading. Look at us go! We are tearing through this sample paper! We make such a good time, huh? Right, *partner*? Right? *Riiiiight*.....? I've made things weird by confessing my undying love for you via block quote, haven't I? Right...sorry bout that.

Ok, so moving on. Can't let a little thing like a broken heart stop us from doing our job now, can we? *Wait, can we*? No, we can't. I just checked.

I feel like this probably goes without saying at this point, but if you have a first heading you should probably have a second one, too. Otherwise you really didn't need the first one, did you? You might also have a third and a fourth heading, and a medley of subheadings under each of them. You *might* have a lot of things, really. You might have an APA style guide for a boyfriend, if you would only be more open minded. You might have good chemistry together. You might even have beautiful little half-human-half-style-guide children. You might have

wonderful, happy lives together, *if you would only give a certain style guide a chance*. WHY DON'T YOU LOVE ME?

### Conclusion

So this is where we part ways, my dear. This is where our torrid little affair concludes—which is altogether fitting and appropriate, because this is where the typical APA paper concludes as well. As such, this is where you, as the author of the essay, will restate the key problem this essay was trying to address and explain how you have addressed it, and it is where I, as the lonely, sensitive, heart-broken style-guide, will bid you a bittersweet farewell. I can take a hint, after all. It is obvious you are not interested, and I will not sully my dignity by begging.

Right. So. See you later, I guess?

But, uh...you know...feel free to, like...*download me*, or whatever. Save me to a special file on your computer. Visit your good pal the APA style guide every now and then—on a purely professional basis, of course, HA HA! Because that is what I'm here for, you know! That is what *I'm all about!* Work, work, work—THAT'S ME! So if you ever need any help with a paper, feel free to, like, swing by my file location, ok? You know, double click on my icon. Open me up. Read me again. Maybe even...*print me out*. Slowly. *Real slowly*. So you have a nice, hard carbon copy to hold onto. Yeah. *Yeaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah....*

## References

Cornelius, A. V., Tyson, D., & Freake, J. (1993). *Three books of occult philosophy*. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn.

Henson, M., & Wellman, J. (1999). *Lemegeton: The complete lesser key of Solomon*. Jacksonville, FL: Metatron Books.

Mathers, S. L., & W., D. L. (1999). *The greater Key of Solomon including a clear and precise exposition of King Solomon's secret procedure, its mysteries and magic rites.: Original plates, seals, charms and talismans*. Escondido, CA: The Book Tree.

You'll notice, I'm sure, that none of these sources were actually used in this paper. This should not be true about your paper. If it is, you are seriously confused. Please, consult the APA Style Guide immediately. It is lonely.

What Does APA Referencing Look Like? There are two parts: 1. In-text citations (within the body of your paper): Each in-text citation gives just enough information on a particular source to "point" the reader to the corresponding, more detailed entry on the reference list. No date. Use the heading, and identify the paragraph below the heading where the information appears. Use the title of the source. NOTE: In-text citations should include the original publication date as well as the course pack publication date, e.g., (Jefferson, 1997/2008, p. 326). Use the course pack page numbering if available. If the course pack does not have its own page numbers, use the original page numbers of the chapter. Example: John Doe is an Advertising Director at a city newspaper. This may clue you in to the fact that he is a sales-oriented individual, highly motivated, and creative. Jane Smith is a Pharmacist. You might assume simply from the position she holds that she is very customer oriented and skilled in the area of pharmaceutical sciences. In some cases, you may not know who to write to if a name or title is not listed in an ad.