

# COLLEGE THESIS FORMATTING APA

## UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE THESIS FORMATTING APA: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

**COLLEGE THESIS FORMATTING APA** IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS, ENSURING YOUR RESEARCH IS PRESENTED CLEARLY, PROFESSIONALLY, AND IN A STANDARDIZED MANNER. MASTERING THESE GUIDELINES IS NOT JUST ABOUT ADHERING TO RULES; IT'S ABOUT MAKING YOUR HARD WORK ACCESSIBLE AND CREDIBLE TO YOUR AUDIENCE. THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE WILL WALK YOU THROUGH EVERY ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF APA FORMATTING FOR YOUR THESIS, FROM THE INITIAL TITLE PAGE TO THE FINAL REFERENCE LIST. WE'LL COVER EVERYTHING FROM MARGINS AND SPACING TO IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR VARIOUS SECTIONS, EMPOWERING YOU TO CONFIDENTLY FORMAT YOUR THESIS. OUR AIM IS TO DEMYSTIFY THE PROCESS, OFFERING PRACTICAL ADVICE AND DETAILED EXPLANATIONS TO HELP YOU CREATE A POLISHED AND COMPLIANT DOCUMENT.

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### THE FOUNDATION: UNDERSTANDING APA STYLE FOR THESES

APA (AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION) STYLE IS A WIDELY ADOPTED ACADEMIC CITATION AND FORMATTING STYLE, PARTICULARLY PREVALENT IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, PSYCHOLOGY, AND EDUCATION. ITS PRIMARY GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A CONSISTENT AND CLEAR FRAMEWORK FOR PRESENTING RESEARCH, MAKING IT EASIER FOR READERS TO UNDERSTAND THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND TO LOCATE IT THEMSELVES. WHEN YOU'RE WORKING ON YOUR COLLEGE THESIS, ADHERING TO APA FORMATTING ENSURES THAT YOUR WORK MEETS SCHOLARLY STANDARDS AND DEMONSTRATES YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL, A KEY ATTRIBUTE OF A GOOD RESEARCHER. THINK OF IT AS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF ACADEMIC WRITING, ENSURING EVERYONE SPEAKS THE SAME LANGUAGE WHEN IT COMES TO CITING SOURCES AND ORGANIZING INFORMATION.

### WHY APA FORMATTING MATTERS FOR YOUR THESIS

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT APA FORMATTING FOR YOUR COLLEGE THESIS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT AESTHETICS; IT'S ABOUT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE CLARITY OF YOUR COMMUNICATION. PROPER FORMATTING PREVENTS PLAGIARISM BY CLEARLY ATTRIBUTING IDEAS AND DATA TO THEIR ORIGINAL SOURCES. IT ALSO ALLOWS YOUR READERS,

INCLUDING YOUR THESIS COMMITTEE AND FUTURE SCHOLARS, TO EASILY FOLLOW YOUR ARGUMENTS, LOCATE YOUR REFERENCES, AND VERIFY YOUR RESEARCH. A WELL-FORMATTED THESIS SIGNALS PROFESSIONALISM AND A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF ACADEMIC CONVENTIONS, WHICH CAN POSITIVELY INFLUENCE HOW YOUR WORK IS PERCEIVED. ULTIMATELY, IT'S ABOUT PRESENTING YOUR RIGOROUS RESEARCH IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND CREDIBLE WAY POSSIBLE.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF APA STYLE

APA STYLE COVERS A BROAD RANGE OF ELEMENTS WITHIN A DOCUMENT, FROM THE MACRO-LEVEL ORGANIZATION TO MICRO-LEVEL DETAILS OF PUNCTUATION. UNDERSTANDING THESE CORE COMPONENTS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD MASTERING THE FORMAT. FOR A COLLEGE THESIS, THIS TYPICALLY INVOLVES SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TITLE PAGE, ABSTRACT, MAIN BODY CONTENT, IN-TEXT CITATIONS, AND THE REFERENCE LIST. BEYOND THESE, APA ALSO PROVIDES GUIDELINES FOR TABLES, FIGURES, AND THE OVERALL MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION, INCLUDING ELEMENTS LIKE MARGINS, FONT TYPE, AND LINE SPACING.

## CRAFTING YOUR TITLE PAGE IN APA FORMAT

THE TITLE PAGE IS THE GATEWAY TO YOUR THESIS, OFFERING ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE. IN APA STYLE, IT'S DESIGNED TO BE CONCISE YET INFORMATIVE, PROVIDING READERS WITH THE CRUCIAL DETAILS ABOUT YOUR WORK. IT'S MORE THAN JUST PUTTING YOUR NAME AND TITLE ON A PAGE; IT FOLLOWS A VERY SPECIFIC STRUCTURE THAT YOU NEED TO GET RIGHT TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION.

### REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR THE TITLE PAGE

FOR YOUR COLLEGE THESIS TITLE PAGE, APA 7TH EDITION SPECIFIES SEVERAL KEY COMPONENTS THAT MUST BE INCLUDED AND POSITIONED CORRECTLY. THE RUNNING HEAD, TITLE OF THE PAPER, AUTHOR'S NAME, AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION ARE ALL STANDARD. FOR STUDENT PAPERS, THE RUNNING HEAD IS SIMPLIFIED COMPARED TO PROFESSIONAL PAPERS. IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE PAGE NUMBER SHOULD APPEAR IN THE TOP RIGHT CORNER, STARTING WITH PAGE 1 FOR THE TITLE PAGE ITSELF.

### FORMATTING SPECIFICS FOR THE TITLE PAGE

THE TITLE OF YOUR THESIS SHOULD BE BOLDDED AND CENTERED, PLACED IN THE UPPER HALF OF THE PAGE. YOUR NAME FOLLOWS, THEN YOUR DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY. FOR STUDENT PAPERS, THE COURSE NUMBER AND INSTRUCTOR'S NAME ARE ALSO TYPICALLY INCLUDED, ALONG WITH THE DUE DATE. ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING IS DOUBLE-SPACED, JUST LIKE THE REST OF YOUR THESIS, AND THAT THE FONT IS CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT. PRECISION HERE SETS A PROFESSIONAL TONE FOR THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.

## ABSTRACT: SUMMARIZING YOUR RESEARCH EFFECTIVELY

THE ABSTRACT IS A CONCISE SUMMARY OF YOUR ENTIRE THESIS, PROVIDING A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF YOUR RESEARCH PROBLEM, METHODS, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS. IT'S OFTEN THE FIRST PART OF YOUR THESIS THAT SOMEONE WILL READ, SO IT NEEDS TO BE COMPELLING AND INFORMATIVE, GIVING THEM A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT YOUR RESEARCH IS ALL ABOUT WITHOUT THEM HAVING TO READ THE WHOLE DOCUMENT.

### PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF AN APA ABSTRACT

AN EFFECTIVE ABSTRACT SHOULD CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF YOUR RESEARCH IN A WAY THAT IS BOTH COMPREHENSIVE AND BRIEF. IT TYPICALLY RANGES FROM 150 TO 250 WORDS, THOUGH YOUR INSTITUTION MIGHT HAVE SPECIFIC LENGTH

REQUIREMENTS. THE ABSTRACT SHOULD STAND ALONE, MEANING IT CONTAINS ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR A READER TO GRASP THE CORE OF YOUR THESIS WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE MAIN TEXT. IT SHOULD CLEARLY STATE THE RESEARCH QUESTION OR PROBLEM, THE PARTICIPANTS OR SUBJECTS, THE KEY METHODS USED, THE MAIN RESULTS, AND THE PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS OR IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR FINDINGS.

## FORMATTING YOUR ABSTRACT

IN APA STYLE, THE ABSTRACT IS PRESENTED ON A SEPARATE PAGE, FOLLOWING THE TITLE PAGE. THE WORD "ABSTRACT" SHOULD BE CENTERED AND BOLDED AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE. THE ABSTRACT ITSELF IS A SINGLE PARAGRAPH, WITH NO INDENTATION FOR THE FIRST LINE. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THE ABSTRACT IS DOUBLE-SPACED AND FOLLOWS THE SAME FONT AND MARGIN GUIDELINES AS THE REST OF YOUR THESIS. KEYWORDS ARE OFTEN INCLUDED BELOW THE ABSTRACT, PRECEDED BY THE WORD "KEYWORDS" IN ITALICS, FOLLOWED BY A COMMA AND THEN THE KEYWORDS THEMSELVES.

## THE BODY OF YOUR THESIS: STRUCTURING AND FORMATTING

THE MAIN BODY OF YOUR THESIS IS WHERE YOU PRESENT YOUR DETAILED RESEARCH, ARGUMENTS, AND FINDINGS. APA FORMATTING PROVIDES A CLEAR STRUCTURE TO GUIDE BOTH YOU AND YOUR READER THROUGH THIS EXTENSIVE CONTENT, ENSURING LOGICAL FLOW AND EASY NAVIGATION. GETTING THE STRUCTURE AND FORMATTING RIGHT HERE IS CRUCIAL FOR THE CLARITY AND IMPACT OF YOUR RESEARCH.

## STANDARD THESIS STRUCTURE IN APA

A TYPICAL COLLEGE THESIS STRUCTURED IN APA STYLE INCLUDES AN INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, METHODOLOGY, RESULTS, DISCUSSION, AND CONCLUSION. EACH OF THESE SECTIONS BUILDS UPON THE LAST, CREATING A COHERENT NARRATIVE OF YOUR RESEARCH JOURNEY. THE INTRODUCTION SETS THE STAGE, THE LITERATURE REVIEW CONTEXTUALIZES YOUR WORK, THE METHODOLOGY DETAILS HOW YOU CONDUCTED YOUR RESEARCH, THE RESULTS PRESENT YOUR FINDINGS OBJECTIVELY, THE DISCUSSION INTERPRETS THOSE FINDINGS, AND THE CONCLUSION SUMMARIZES AND OFFERS FINAL THOUGHTS.

## FORMATTING SECTION HEADINGS AND SUBHEADINGS

APA STYLE USES A HIERARCHICAL SYSTEM OF HEADINGS AND SUBHEADINGS TO ORGANIZE THE CONTENT WITHIN YOUR THESIS BODY. THIS STRUCTURE IS CRUCIAL FOR READABILITY AND HELPS READERS QUICKLY IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TOPICS AND SUBTOPICS. THE SPECIFIC LEVELS AND THEIR FORMATTING (E.G., BOLDING, CAPITALIZATION, INDENTATION) ARE PRECISELY DEFINED BY APA GUIDELINES. FOR INSTANCE, LEVEL 1 HEADINGS ARE CENTERED AND BOLDED, WHILE LEVEL 2 HEADINGS ARE FLUSH LEFT AND BOLDED. MASTERING THESE HEADING FORMATS WILL MAKE YOUR THESIS MUCH EASIER TO FOLLOW.

## GENERAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

BEYOND HEADINGS, SEVERAL GENERAL FORMATTING RULES APPLY TO THE BODY OF YOUR THESIS. THIS INCLUDES MAINTAINING DOUBLE-SPACING THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT, USING 1-INCH MARGINS ON ALL SIDES OF THE PAGE, AND EMPLOYING A LEGIBLE FONT, TYPICALLY TIMES NEW ROMAN 12-POINT OR ARIAL 11-POINT. PAGE NUMBERS SHOULD APPEAR IN THE HEADER, ALIGNED TO THE RIGHT, STARTING FROM THE INTRODUCTION. CONSISTENCY IN THESE ELEMENTS IS PARAMOUNT FOR A PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION.

# IN-TEXT CITATIONS: GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

IN-TEXT CITATIONS ARE THE BACKBONE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, ACKNOWLEDGING THE SOURCES OF YOUR INFORMATION WITHIN THE BODY OF YOUR THESIS. APA STYLE HAS A SPECIFIC, PARENTHETICAL CITATION SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS READERS TO EASILY IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR AND PUBLICATION YEAR OF THE SOURCE MATERIAL YOU'VE USED, ENABLING THEM TO FIND THE FULL REFERENCE IN YOUR REFERENCE LIST.

## THE AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEM

APA'S IN-TEXT CITATION SYSTEM IS BASED ON THE AUTHOR'S LAST NAME AND THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION. WHEN YOU QUOTE, PARAPHRASE, OR SUMMARIZE INFORMATION FROM A SOURCE, YOU MUST INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY AFTER THE MATERIAL. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE PARAPHRASING A CONCEPT FROM A BOOK BY SMITH PUBLISHED IN 2020, YOUR CITATION MIGHT LOOK LIKE (SMITH, 2020). THIS SYSTEM IS CONSISTENT AND STRAIGHTFORWARD ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES.

## HANDLING DIFFERENT SOURCE TYPES

THE WAY YOU FORMAT IN-TEXT CITATIONS CAN VARY SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF AUTHORS AND THE TYPE OF SOURCE. FOR DIRECT QUOTES, YOU'LL ALSO NEED TO INCLUDE THE PAGE NUMBER WHERE THE QUOTE CAN BE FOUND, LIKE (SMITH, 2020, P. 45). FOR MULTIPLE AUTHORS, APA HAS SPECIFIC RULES: TWO AUTHORS ARE CITED WITH AN AMPERSAND (&) BETWEEN THEIR NAMES (E.G., SMITH & JONES, 2021), WHILE THREE OR MORE AUTHORS ARE CITED WITH THE FIRST AUTHOR'S NAME FOLLOWED BY "ET AL." (E.G., SMITH ET AL., 2022). CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES OR SOURCES WITH NO AUTHOR REQUIRES SPECIFIC HANDLING AS WELL, ENSURING YOU ALWAYS PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ATTRIBUTION.

## THE REFERENCE LIST: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

THE REFERENCE LIST, APPEARING AT THE END OF YOUR THESIS, PROVIDES A COMPLETE ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF ALL THE SOURCES YOU CITED IN YOUR TEXT. THIS SECTION IS CRUCIAL FOR ALLOWING YOUR READERS TO LOCATE AND CONSULT THE ORIGINAL WORKS, VALIDATING YOUR RESEARCH AND ENABLING FURTHER STUDY. IT'S A DETAILED INVENTORY OF YOUR RESEARCH'S FOUNDATION.

## FORMATTING YOUR REFERENCE LIST PAGE

THE REFERENCE LIST BEGINS ON A NEW PAGE AFTER THE MAIN BODY OF YOUR THESIS. THE HEADING "REFERENCES" SHOULD BE CENTERED AND BOLDDED AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE. EVERY ENTRY IN THE REFERENCE LIST MUST BE DOUBLE-SPACED, AND SUBSEQUENT LINES OF EACH ENTRY SHOULD BE INDENTED (A HANGING INDENT). THIS FORMATTING CONVENTION MAKES IT EASY TO SCAN THE LIST AND DISTINGUISH INDIVIDUAL SOURCES.

## CITING VARIOUS SOURCE TYPES

APA HAS DETAILED GUIDELINES FOR FORMATTING REFERENCES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOURCES, INCLUDING BOOKS, JOURNAL ARTICLES, WEBSITES, AND MORE. THE GENERAL FORMAT FOR MOST SOURCES INCLUDES THE AUTHOR'S NAME, PUBLICATION DATE, TITLE OF THE WORK, AND PUBLICATION INFORMATION. FOR EXAMPLE, A BOOK REFERENCE TYPICALLY FOLLOWS THE FORMAT: AUTHOR, A. A. (YEAR). TITLE OF WORK. PUBLISHER. FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES, IT INCLUDES THE JOURNAL TITLE, VOLUME, AND ISSUE NUMBERS, AND A DOI IF AVAILABLE. UNDERSTANDING THESE NUANCES IS KEY TO ACCURATELY COMPILING YOUR REFERENCE LIST.

- **BOOK:** AUTHOR, A. A. (YEAR). TITLE OF BOOK. PUBLISHER.
- **JOURNAL ARTICLE:** AUTHOR, A. A., & AUTHOR, B. B. (YEAR). TITLE OF ARTICLE. TITLE OF PERIODICAL, VOLUME(ISSUE), PAGES. DOI
- **WEBSITE:** AUTHOR, A. A. (YEAR, MONTH DAY). TITLE OF SPECIFIC PAGE. SITE NAME. URL

## APPENDICES AND OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

SOMETIMES, YOUR THESIS MIGHT INCLUDE SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS THAT ARE TOO LENGTHY OR DETAILED TO INCLUDE IN THE MAIN BODY. THESE CAN RANGE FROM RAW DATA AND QUESTIONNAIRES TO DETAILED STATISTICAL OUTPUTS OR INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS. APA FORMATTING PROVIDES CLEAR GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTING THESE MATERIALS IN APPENDICES.

### STRUCTURING YOUR APPENDICES

APPENDICES ARE PLACED AT THE VERY END OF YOUR THESIS, AFTER THE REFERENCE LIST. EACH APPENDIX SHOULD BEGIN ON A NEW PAGE AND BE LABELED WITH A LETTER (APPENDIX A, APPENDIX B, ETC.) AND A DESCRIPTIVE TITLE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU HAVE A SURVEY INSTRUMENT, YOU MIGHT LABEL IT "APPENDIX A: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE." IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE APPENDICES, THEY SHOULD BE LISTED IN ORDER IN THE TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### FORMATTING WITHIN APPENDICES

WHILE APPENDICES TYPICALLY FOLLOW THE GENERAL FORMATTING RULES OF YOUR THESIS (DOUBLE-SPACING, 1-INCH MARGINS), YOU HAVE A BIT MORE FLEXIBILITY DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE INCLUDING A TABLE OR FIGURE THAT WAS ORIGINALLY FORMATTED DIFFERENTLY, YOU CAN OFTEN RETAIN THAT ORIGINAL FORMATTING WITHIN THE APPENDIX, AS LONG AS IT REMAINS LEGIBLE. THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO MAKE THESE SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS ACCESSIBLE TO ANYONE WHO WISHES TO EXAMINE THEM IN DETAIL.

## COMMON PITFALLS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

EVEN WITH CAREFUL ATTENTION, IT'S EASY TO MAKE MISTAKES WHEN NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF APA THESIS FORMATTING. BEING AWARE OF COMMON ERRORS CAN HELP YOU PROACTIVELY AVOID THEM AND ENSURE YOUR DOCUMENT IS COMPLIANT AND POLISHED. DOUBLE-CHECKING IS ALWAYS YOUR BEST FRIEND HERE.

### CONSISTENCY IS KEY

ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENT ISSUES IS INCONSISTENCY IN FORMATTING. THIS CAN INCLUDE VARIATIONS IN SPACING, FONT TYPES, HEADING STYLES, OR CITATION FORMATS. ENSURE THAT YOU APPLY THE CHOSEN APA GUIDELINES CONSISTENTLY THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE DOCUMENT. BEFORE SUBMITTING, PERFORM A THOROUGH REVIEW SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR THESE KINDS OF INCONSISTENCIES.

### INCORRECT PAGE NUMBERING AND RUNNING HEADS

ANOTHER COMMON AREA FOR ERRORS IS PAGE NUMBERING AND THE RUNNING HEAD. REMEMBER THAT THE TITLE PAGE IS PAGE 1,

AND THE ABSTRACT IS PAGE 2. ENSURE THAT THE RUNNING HEAD (FOR STUDENT PAPERS, TYPICALLY JUST THE PAGE NUMBER) IS CORRECTLY PLACED IN THE HEADER OF EVERY PAGE. SMALL DETAILS LIKE THESE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE OVERALL PROFESSIONALISM OF YOUR THESIS.

## CITATION AND REFERENCE LIST ERRORS

ERRORS IN IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND THE REFERENCE LIST ARE PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL TO AVOID, AS THEY DIRECTLY RELATE TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. DOUBLE-CHECK THAT EVERY IN-TEXT CITATION HAS A CORRESPONDING ENTRY IN THE REFERENCE LIST, AND VICE-VERSA. VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF AUTHOR NAMES, PUBLICATION YEARS, TITLES, AND PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR ALL REFERENCES. A CAREFUL PROOFREAD SPECIFICALLY FOR THESE ELEMENTS IS ESSENTIAL.

## FAQ

### Q: WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF COLLEGE THESIS FORMATTING APA?

A: THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF COLLEGE THESIS FORMATTING APA IS CONSISTENCY. ENSURING THAT YOU APPLY ALL APA GUIDELINES UNIFORMLY THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE DOCUMENT, FROM THE TITLE PAGE TO THE REFERENCE LIST, IS CRUCIAL FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION. THIS INCLUDES CONSISTENT SPACING, FONT USAGE, HEADING STYLES, AND CITATION FORMATS.

### Q: HOW DO I FORMAT THE TITLE PAGE FOR A COLLEGE THESIS IN APA 7TH EDITION?

A: FOR AN APA 7TH EDITION COLLEGE THESIS TITLE PAGE, YOU'LL INCLUDE THE TITLE OF THE PAPER (BOLDED, CENTERED, UPPER HALF OF THE PAGE), YOUR NAME, YOUR INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION (DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY), AND FOR STUDENT PAPERS, THE COURSE NUMBER, INSTRUCTOR'S NAME, AND ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE. THE PAGE NUMBER SHOULD BE IN THE TOP RIGHT CORNER, AND THE ENTIRE PAGE IS DOUBLE-SPACED.

### Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RUNNING HEAD AND A PAGE NUMBER IN APA 7TH EDITION FOR A STUDENT THESIS?

A: IN APA 7TH EDITION, PROFESSIONAL PAPERS REQUIRE A RUNNING HEAD (A SHORTENED TITLE) ON EVERY PAGE. HOWEVER, FOR STUDENT PAPERS LIKE THESES, THIS IS USUALLY SIMPLIFIED TO JUST THE PAGE NUMBER, LOCATED IN THE TOP RIGHT CORNER OF THE HEADER ON EVERY PAGE, STARTING WITH PAGE 1 ON THE TITLE PAGE.

### Q: HOW MANY WORDS SHOULD AN ABSTRACT BE FOR A COLLEGE THESIS IN APA FORMAT?

A: TYPICALLY, AN ABSTRACT FOR A COLLEGE THESIS IN APA FORMAT SHOULD BE BETWEEN 150 AND 250 WORDS. HOWEVER, IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO CHECK IF YOUR SPECIFIC INSTITUTION OR DEPARTMENT HAS A DIFFERENT WORD COUNT REQUIREMENT FOR ABSTRACTS.

### Q: SHOULD I INDENT THE FIRST LINE OF MY REFERENCE LIST ENTRIES IN APA FORMAT?

A: NO, YOU SHOULD NOT INDENT THE FIRST LINE OF YOUR REFERENCE LIST ENTRIES. INSTEAD, APA STYLE USES A HANGING INDENT, MEANING THE FIRST LINE OF EACH REFERENCE IS FLUSH LEFT, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT LINES ARE INDENTED. THIS MAKES IT EASIER TO DISTINGUISH INDIVIDUAL REFERENCES IN THE LIST.

## **Q: HOW DO I CITE A SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR IN APA FORMAT FOR MY THESIS?**

A: WHEN CITING A SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR IN APA FORMAT, YOU TYPICALLY USE THE TITLE OF THE WORK IN PLACE OF THE AUTHOR'S NAME IN BOTH YOUR IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND THE REFERENCE LIST. FOR IN-TEXT CITATIONS, IF THE TITLE IS LONG, YOU MIGHT USE A SHORTENED VERSION.

## **Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF APPENDICES IN AN APA FORMATTED THESIS?**

A: APPENDICES IN AN APA FORMATTED THESIS ARE USED TO INCLUDE SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL THAT IS TOO EXTENSIVE OR DETAILED FOR THE MAIN BODY OF THE PAPER. THIS CAN INCLUDE RAW DATA, SURVEY INSTRUMENTS, INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS, OR DETAILED STATISTICAL OUTPUT, ALLOWING READERS TO EXAMINE THE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE MORE CLOSELY.

## **Q: HOW SHOULD I FORMAT SUBHEADINGS WITHIN THE BODY OF MY APA THESIS?**

A: APA STYLE USES A FIVE-LEVEL HIERARCHY FOR HEADINGS AND SUBHEADINGS. FOR A COLLEGE THESIS, YOU WILL LIKELY USE LEVEL 1 (CENTERED, BOLDED) AND LEVEL 2 (FLUSH LEFT, BOLDED) HEADINGS. ENSURE CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THE CAPITALIZATION AND PUNCTUATION FOR EACH LEVEL AS SPECIFIED BY APA GUIDELINES.

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