

## Writing It Up in APA Style



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## Aspects of a good psychological research article

- Presentation of theory and data is:
  - Clear
  - Concise
  - Consistent
  - Organized
- Peer-reviewed
- Novel ideas and/or methodologies



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## Be Prepared To...

- Revise and revise and revise
- Be criticized
- Have your manuscript rejected
- Conduct more research



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## Title Page and Abstract

- Title page
  - Concise description of what you found (Single phrase or sentence)
  - Get the reader's attention
- Abstract (120 words or less)
  - Paragraph-long description of *everything*

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- "This is why I am doing what I am doing"
  - Theoretical background
  - Literature review
  - Builds up to your hypotheses

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- "How did I collect the data?"
  - Participants
  - Materials
    - Cronbach's alpha's
  - Procedure

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- “Are my hypotheses supported or not?”
  - Descriptive statistics
    - ex. means, SD’s
  - Type of analyses you conducted
  - Significance of tests
  - Summarize using figures and tables whenever possible

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- “So what? Why is this research important?”
  - Implications for the current theory
  - Limitations
  - Future research

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**List**

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- Alphabetical by first author
    - Gore, J.S., & Lillie, R. A. (2005). Writing a paper. *Journal of Writing*, 3, 45-50.
  - Must be cited in the manuscript
    - (Gore & Lillie, 2005)

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## Writing Issues



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- Avoid first-person pronouns
    - Try not to use “I”, “we”, “our”
    - Refer to “the current study” rather than “I”
  - Avoid colloquial phrasing
    - E.g., “...goes hand in hand with...”
  - Avoid cryptic language
    - No jargon, say what you mean in English
  - Avoid awkward and run-on sentences
    - Read your paper out loud

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- Synthesizing information
    - Esp. literature review
  - Logical argument
    - Consistency in argument
    - No contradictions
    - Each paragraph follows from previous one

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- 
- Avoid awkward and run-on sentences
    - Read your paper out loud
  - Say what you mean in English
    - Passes the “Mom Test”
    - Especially important in Results section

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### Features

- Spelling
  - Errors noted as “sp”
- Vocabulary
  - Errors noted as “w.c.” for word choice
- Grammar
  - Errors noted as “gramm”
- Punctuation
  - Errors noted as “punc”
- Capitalization
  - Errors noted as “caps”

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### Issues

- See handout
- Pay attention to format of headings
- Page number and running head on every page (top, right-hand corner)
- References, tables, figures on separate pages
- Tables need a name and description
- Pay attention to elements that are *italicized*

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