

CHANGES BETWEEN APA 6TH AND 7TH EDITIONS

STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL VERSIONS

Information on this handout reflects the student version of an APA paper. The 7th edition of APA has different guidelines for student versus professional papers. Use the student paper guidelines unless your professor requests that you follow the professional paper guidelines.

FORMATTING

- Cover page
 - Changes have been made to the formatting of the cover page and the information that should be included. Starting approximately 4 lines down from the top of the page, the cover page should be double spaced and include:
 - Paper title (in bold – this is the only line on the cover page that is bolded. Add an extra double space between this line and the author’s name.)
 - Author (your name)
 - Affiliation (the department name and university name, separated by a comma.)
 - The course code and name (Example: WRT 1010: College Composition I)
 - Instructor (the instructor’s name)
 - Due date (written in month, day, year format)
- Running head
 - No running head is required, unless your professor requests it. Just use page numbers placed in the upper right corner. The cover page is the first page and should have the number 1 on it.
- Title
 - Along with being bolded on the cover page, the paper title should also be bolded where it appears on the first page of text in the body of the paper.
- Font
 - More font styles are accepted: 11-pt Calibri, 11-pt Arial, 11-pt Lucida Sans Unicode, 12-pt Times New Roman, 11-pt Georgia or 10pt Computer Modern
- Headings – there are multiple levels of headings (1-5). Changes have only been made to levels 3, 4, and 5.
 - Level 3 Heading: Flush left, Bold Italics, Title Case Heading
 - Text begins as a new paragraph
 - Level 4 Headings: Indented, Bold, Title Case Ending with a Period
 - Text begins on same line as heading and continues as a regular paragraph
 - Level 5 Heading: Indented, Bold Italics, Title Case Ending with a Period
 - Text begins on the same line and continues as a regular paragraph

(Continued on reverse side)

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Additional online resources can be found at www.madonna.edu/owl

MECHANICS

- A single space is used after periods (not two spaces).
- Double quotes are used instead of italics to denote examples of language:
 - If referring to an ironic comment, introducing slang or coining/inventing a new expression, quotation marks only need to be used the first time it is referenced.
- Additional information on how to avoid anthropomorphism (attributing human characteristics to animals or inanimate sources) is provided on page 117.
- Information on use and formatting of abbreviations can be found on page 172.
- Numbers used in the abstract of the paper or in a graphical display follow the usual guidelines for numbers when a number precedes the noun (p. 178).
 - Ex 1: the 1st day or the 11th item
 - Ex 2: the second grade or third question

NON-BIASED LANGUAGE

- Singular use of “they” is endorsed.
- Information on how to refer to people based on age, disability, gender, racial and ethnic identity, and sexual orientation can be found starting on page 135 of the manual.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

- All in-text citation for works with three or more authors are shortened to the name of the first author and “et al.”

REFERENCES PAGE

- The word “References” at the top of the References page is now bolded.
- For DOIs, the label “DOI” is no longer included. Only the DOI link itself should be listed.
 - If there is no DOI, using a URL is still appropriate but the phrase “Retrieved from” does not need to precede it unless the content is likely to change over time.
- The number of authors listed in a single reference has changed from 7 to 20.
- Books no longer require the inclusion of the publisher’s location.
- The type or format of an e-book does not need to be included.
- For webpages, the format is now Lastname, F.M. (Year, Month Date). *Title of page*. Site name. URL
 - Notice that the full date is included if available, and the title of the page is italicized, but the title of the site is not italicized.

NOTES

- There are more updates and changes of guidelines that can be found in the APA manual. Refer to *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)* for a comprehensive list of changes.
- When writing references, double check your reference with the 7th edition manual. Books, journal articles and chapters within books have minor changes. See Chapter 9 of the manual.