Guide to Using APA Style: Formatting

APA (American Psychological Association) Style is a type of documentation style that is used for the social sciences, including psychology, anthropology, sociology, education, and other fields.

General Formatting Guidelines

- Double-spaced throughout (including title page)
- 1" margins on all sides
- A page number at the top of every page on the right (including the title page)
- Accessible font, such as 11-point Calibri, 11-point Arial, and 10-point Lucida Sans Unicode as well as serif fonts such as 12-point Times New Roman, 11-point Georgia, and 10-point Computer Modern.* (Professors often ask for Times New Roman 12-point.)

Major Paper Sections

- Title Page (all double spaced)*
  - title of the paper (in bold and centered in the upper half of the page)
  - author's name
  - institutional affiliation
  - course number and name
  - instructor name
  - assignment due date
- Abstract*
  - On the first line of a new page, center and bold the word "Abstract"
  - On the next line, not indented, write a one-paragraph summary (no more than 250 words) including your research topic, research questions, participants, methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions.
- Main Body
  - Sections may be labelled with headings and subheadings.
- Reference List

*Check assignment guidelines for your professor's requirements.

For more information, visit Purdue OWL's General Format and Reference List: Basic Rules.

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