

Your APA paper should include five major sections: the Title Page, Abstract, Main Paper, Paper Format and References And Citations. See the timeline handout for important due dates.

1. TITLE PAGE

- Your paper should begin with a title page that follows APA format. The info at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> is great for APA citation.
- Your title should be interesting and inform the reader of your topic.

2. ABSTRACT

- An abstract page should include the page header. On the first line of the abstract page, center the word "Abstract" (no bold, formatting, italics, underlining, or quotation marks).
- Beginning with the next line, write a concise summary of the key points of your research. (Do not indent.) An abstract should summarize your research topic, research questions, participants, methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions.
- Your abstract should be a single paragraph double-spaced. Your abstract should be between 150 and 250 words.

3. MAIN PAPER (will have four distinct parts):

I. INTRODUCTION

- In general, all papers should begin with an introduction that includes a **thesis statement** (see handout on a good/bad thesis).
- The purpose of the introduction is the same as any research paper: in one to two paragraphs, briefly introduce and state the issue to be examined.
- The introduction always states what you are trying to prove/disprove in the paper.

II. THESIS STATEMENT

- The most important part of your introduction is this statement.
- The **thesis statement** is the direction of your paper.
- Your thesis must always be underlined in everything you turn in.

III. BODY

- Each body paragraph should include a topic sentence.
- Your topic sentences must always be underlined in everything you turn in.
- I repeat: Underline each topic sentence of each paragraph.
- **Paragraphs have no less than four but no more than six sentences.**
- Topic sentences explain/summarize what will be addressed in the paragraph.
- These topic sentences also act as transitions to create a coherent argument.

- Transitions link paragraphs together and unite the overall position of your argument.
- Paragraphs support the particular **thesis statement** with evidence/examples.
- The body of your paper should clearly show that your argument/critique/analysis is moving in a certain direction (the direction outlined in your introduction).

IV. CONCLUSION

- Bring cohesion to your paper by clearly reiterating your main points.
- Summarize your themes and sub-points.
- Explain what was suggested in the body of your paper.
- Tie up your argument and drive home your **thesis statement**.
- You should attempt to show that your thesis has been proven.

4. PAPER FORMAT

- Paper length: Micro honors and Econ 230 honors 9-11 pages (not including title and reference pages)
- 12 point font with 1 inch margins
- Double-spaced
- Headings (where appropriate)
- Your paper's turnitin.com originality score of no less than 15% and no more than 25%
- Uses a single source no more than five times.
- Your paper is due May 13th
- Your **thesis** always underlined.
- Your topic sentences always underlined.

5. REFERENCES AND CITATIONS

Main resource materials:

- Primary source documents e.g., books such as The Wealth of Nations and JSTOR scholarly articles--no less than three **must come from** the 30 economic journals at <http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/whorrace/journals.htm> and my handout on them.

Ancillary resource materials:

- Cited think tanks (e.g. Cato.org, Brookings Institute)
- Popular writings (e.g. NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Economist, other media).
- No more than three (and they should not be the focal point of your paper's evidence).
- wiki's and blogs are not acceptable sources.
- How many sources should you have? No less than seven and no more than eleven.
- Note: you may only use two of the in-class readings as direct sources.

I strongly suggest that any single source not be overly relied on.

In-Text Citations (APA Format)

- Rather than footnotes or endnotes, APA Format uses in-text citations.
- Avoid plagiarizing through the use of in-text citations that identify ideas, information or words from a particular source. APA still requires a bibliography!
- For help: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

TIPS

- This is a social science paper not an opinion piece. As a general rule you should avoid writing in first or second person subject or possessive (singular or plural). Instead write in the third person.
- For example, use "it" not "I" or "we or you";
- For example, "The evidence" suggests Barack Obama is the greatest president ever verses "I think" Barack Obama is ...or "We believe" Barack Obama is....)

- Think critically.
- Always outline before you begin
- Analyze the readings and stay organized
- Is your **thesis** always underlined in everything you turned in?
- Are your topic sentences always underlined?
- Do not use contractions (cannot = ☺; can't = ☹)
- Suggest other areas of research
- Start early, use Turnitin.com for my feedback
- Proofread for clarity, punctuation and spelling
- Do not end sentences with a preposition
- Avoid colloquial language and clichés!
- Is your Turnitin originality score of no less than 15% and no more than 25%
- Did your paper overly rely on a one or two source documents?
- Your paper's word count (proportions) should breakdown, roughly along the following lines: Intro and Thesis 20%; Body 70%; Conclusion 10%