

Publication Style of the American Psychological Association: A Demonstration Paper

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Abstract

Do not indent the first line of the abstract! This is a summary of the paper which usually has a word limit (e.g., 120 words). All numbers may be typed as digits.

*Keywords:* APA style, sample paper

## Publication Style of the American Psychological Association: A Demonstration Paper

The text of the paper begins on a new page. This is the introduction, in which the background is laid for the study. It can be quite lengthy if a complex theory must be explicated in order to make sense of the study. The argument developed in this section must be of excellent quality since the remainder of the paper rests upon understanding the logic presented here.

### Sample Reference Formats

Sometimes evidence from a published work will be discussed and the work will be cited within parentheses at the end of the sentence (Miller, 1956). Please note that when citing multiple-author works within parentheses an ampersand must be used (Alba & Hasher, 1983). If multiple-author publications are cited outside parentheses, the word “and” must be spelled out in full, as in Alba and Hasher (1983). For works with three, four, or five authors, all authors’ names must be given in the first citation, as in Smith, Adams, and Schorr (1978). In the second citation, only the first author’s name is given, followed by “et al.” (Smith et al., 1978).

### Direct Quotation Examples

According to Miller (1956), “the measurements of memory span . . . are suggestive [regarding the amount of information that a person can remember], but not definitive” (pp. 91-92). The job of a teacher is “to provide appropriate experiential evidence and make the cultural tools and conventions of the science community available to students” (Driver, Asoko, Leach, Mortimer, & Scott, as cited in Hewson, Beeth, & Thorley, 1998, p. 202).

## Method

### Participants

Margins should be at least one inch wide. All lines must be double-spaced. Indent the first line of every footnote and the first line of all paragraphs except for (a) the abstract, (b) block quotations, (c) titles and headings, (d) table titles and notes, and (e) figure captions.

## **Materials**

Use a 12-point font. A serif font (such as Times New Roman) is preferred for text, but lettering on figures should be in a sans serif font (such as Arial).

## **Design**

The numbers zero through nine are spelled out (except when it is a table or figure number, or a metric measurement, etc.). The numbers 10 and above are written as numerals.

## **Procedure**

Single-space after commas, colons, semicolons, sentence terminators (i.e., periods, question marks, and exclamation marks), and periods separating parts of a reference citation and initials in people's names. Exception: Do not space after internal periods in abbreviations (e.g., a.m., i.e., U.S.) or around colons in ratios.

## **Results**

If you include a table to summarize the results of your study, refer to it in the body of your text (see Table 1). When formatting a table, type the table number and then (on the next double-spaced line) type the table title flush left and italicized. Note that there are no periods used after the table number or title.

When using columns with decimal numbers in a table, make the decimal points line up. Note that APA-style tables do not contain any vertical lines.

## **Discussion**

Figures must also be referred to within the body of the text (see Figure 1).

## References

- Alba, J. W. & Hasher, L. (1983). Is memory schematic? *Psychological Review*, *93*, 203–231.
- Hewson, P. W., Beeth, M. E., & Thorley, N. R. (1998). Teaching for conceptual change. In B. J. Fraser & K. G. Tobin (Eds.), *International handbook of science education* (pp. 199–218). London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Miller, G. A. (1956). The magical number seven, plus or minus two: some limits on our capacity for processing information. *Psychological Review*, *63*, 81–97.
- Smith, E. E., Adams, N., & Schorr, D. (1978). Fact retrieval and the paradox of interference. *Cognitive Psychology*, *10*, 438–464.

Table 1

*Mean Alpha Power Scores as a Function  
of Type of Processor and Passage*

Type of processor	Passage	
	Exposition	Poetry
Reading alpha data		
Analytic	0.93	1.76
Holistic	3.96	1.98
Recall alpha data		
Analytic	0.71	1.93
Holistic	2.64	0.82

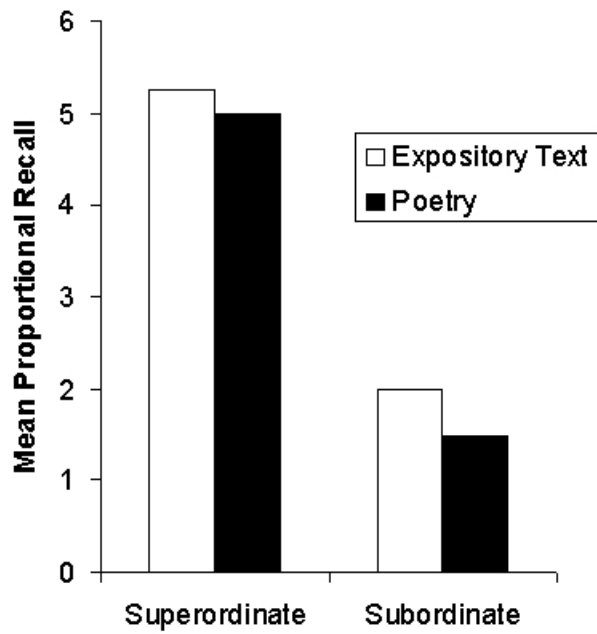


Figure 1. Mean proportional recall as a function of passage and level of subordination.

Appendix

Order of Elements in an APA Standard Paper

Title page, numbered page 1

Abstract, numbered page 2

Text (start new page, numbered page 3)

References (start new page)

Tables (start each on a new page)

Figures (start each on a new page)

Appendices (start each on a new page)