Research Methods Paper 1 Comments

Title Page (see example on p. 50 of the APA manual)

The Running Head is located at the top left, as a header. It should be in the same font and font size (Times New Roman 12 pt) as the rest of your paper. It should be in all capitals, 50 characters or less, including spaces. The page number should be even with the running head, on the far right, and the title page is page 1.

The title is in bold, centered. If your title goes on to a second line, then have about the same number of words on each line, or just slightly more words on the top line. If you have room in your title, it is a good idea to add “in College Students” to be clear on what population we are studying.

Under the title there is a space and then put your name on the next line, and then the class name on the next line, all centered. I told you there was no space between the title and your name, so I took it either way.

The title should be in the middle of the top half of the page.

The Author note should be on the bottom half of the page. The new guidelines show it on the last few lines at the bottom of the page. I told you it should be in the bottom half of the page, so I took it either way.

The author note has 2 “paragraphs”, each one indented. The first one says something about the survey being conducted as part of the PY 222 Research Methods in Psychology class. The second one tells the reader where to address correspondence concerning the article, which is your address. Also, include your email address at the end of your mailing address. There is no period after the email.

I may have scribbled some things out b/c at first I didn’t realize some things had changed with this new edition of the manual.

Each APA error was ½ of a point, taken out of the title page points.

Introduction

First, a note about spacing. Once you get beyond the title page, all the spacing is double-spaced, with NO extra space between the header and the title or between a title or heading and the next line. There is a way to set that up in word so it is double-spaced throughout with no extra spaces before or after the next section.

This section is not titled “Introduction” but it is your exact title from the title page, bold and centered.

Very few people included information about what we were doing for our study. You could say “the current study” or even “our class study” to differentiate it from the previous research you talked about. You need to explain that this is a class project, telling what the class is, and why we wanted to conduct this survey.

The previous research you discuss needs to be in line with your hypothesis. So if you are hypothesizing that members of Greek organizations will report drinking more often than people who aren’t members of Greek organizations, then you need to discuss studies that have shown that members of Greek organizations drink more often or just drink more in general compared to those not in Greek Organizations. Talking about how female Greek members are more likely to report sexual assault from drinking compared to female non-Greek members isn’t directly relevant to what we did, since we didn’t ask about sexual assault. If you want to include this as background information that is fine, but then I would still want you to cite a study or two showing that Greek members drink more, or more often, than non-Greek students. If you got a 1 out of 4 on the previous research, that was usually because the studies you cited weren’t directly relevant to your hypotheses.

In the previous research sections, you need to briefly explain what previous authors did and why that is important (to our study). I did deduct some points if your previous research sections weren’t clear or weren’t relevant to our study. Make sure to define any terms that might be unfamiliar to someone who hasn’t read that article.

Many of you were too colloquial in your writing. This is a scientific research paper and shouldn’t include things like “have issues with” or “students today have a lot on their plates”. Also, people have been using alcohol and marijuana for years, this isn’t a new thing that your generation is doing!

If you include a quote, you need to give the page number in your citation (Smith et al., 2017, p. 350). The page is the page of the journal that it was published in. No more than 2 quotes maximum, in your Introduction and Discussion.

Please don’t use author names in text, as opposed to in parentheses, unless this is a really well-known author, or this is an article that is really important. Instead of writing, “Janice et al. (2019) reported that… just write “Members of Greek organizations report more binge-drinking per month than those that aren’t a member of a Greek organization (Janice et al., 2019).”

For the organization of your Introduction, I would suggest:

-Broad introduction to the topics you will be discussing

-Discussion of previous research relating to your first hypothesis (without stating your hypothesis yet), making sure the information is relevant to what you will be hypothesizing.

-Discussion of previous research relating to your second hypothesis (without stating your hypothesis yet), making sure the information is relevant to what you will be hypothesizing.

-Explaining what we did and why. Our Research Methods in Psychology class designed a survey to…

-Then state your hypotheses, making sure to list the IV, the specific DV (frequency of …, hours per week…), and the comparison group.

Method

The Method section should immediately follow the introduction, even if it is close to the bottom of the page. The sections of the paper that are on a separate page are the Title page, the Abstract, and the References. Each method error was 1/2 a point.

Participants: I counted 1/2 point off if you did not include each of the following: number/percentage of gender, race, IV (1), and IV (2). You can also include here that most participants were voluntary, and the rest were PY 101 students who completed the survey in exchange for course credit.

Materials:I counted 1/2 point off if you didn’t include each of the following: MS Forms, Sona-Systems, SPSS 24, and specific questions asked in the survey related to your paper, along with the answers to each of them.

Procedure: I counted 1/2 point off if you didn’t include each of the following: formation of questions in class, MS Forms, a link was given for the survey to be distributed, and most responses were voluntary, and some responses were from PY 101 students who completed the survey in exchange for course credit. You don't have to put the voluntary participation in both the participants and procedure; just put it in one.

* Most responses to the study were voluntary. Some students received partial course credit In PY 101 for completing the survey.

References

Each reference error was 1/4 a point, and the same (repeated) mistakes were only counted once.

For the references, make sure you have primary sources (journal articles) and that you have a reference for each citation and a citation for each reference. Also, make sure you are alphabetizing your references on your reference page based on the authors' last names.

* If you are having trouble with your in-text citations, refer to page 266 in your publication manual.

In text citations:

Single Author: (Last Name, Year)

Two Authors: (Name 1 & Name 2, Year).

Three or more (Name et al., Year)

* If you are having trouble with your references page, refer to page 66 in your publication manual.

Common problems I saw on the reference page

1. Putting the article's name in italics. Italics are only used for the title of the journal and volume numbers of journal articles.
2. Only the first word of the article title should be capitalized.
3. Make sure that your reference has page numbers, volume numbers, and issue numbers.