Research Methods Paper 1 Comments

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

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.

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

The Author note should be on the last few lines at the bottom of the page.

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.

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 casual 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”.

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 members 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 IVs, the specific DVs (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.

The most missed things in the Method were:

* The total number of participants of the study. Some just went into listing demographic numbers right off the bat in the participant section.
* Some did not include the possible responses for the questions they were interested in using as dependent variables in the materials section.
* Some did not explain how the class came up with the survey in the procedure section.

References

Each reference error was 1/2 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) but on the References list on the last page, you will have to type out all of the authors’ names (up to 20).If you are having trouble with your references page, refer to page 66 in your publication manual.

Common problems on the reference page:

1. Italics are only used for the title of the journal and volume number 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.
4. Do not spell out the first name of authors. Usually it is 2 initials.
5. If you have an online source, you should include the DOI number, NOT “retrieved from”.
6. Only a journal article will count as a primary source.