Basics of APA Formatting

The History of Nursing: 1800 to the Present

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THE HISTORY OF NURSING

Abstract

The abstract is a one paragraph summary of your paper. It should not exceed 120 words. Like the rest of your paper, the abstract should be double-spaced. While an abstract is generally accepted as a formal part of APA formatting, some professors do not require you to include an abstract. If you have any questions regarding the need to include an abstract, please consult your professor.

Key Parts of the APA Formatted Paper

1. Title page
   - Header / Running Head
   - Page Number
   - Title of paper, name, University

2. Abstract
3. Body of Paper
   - Includes in-text citations
4. References

Font:
Times
New Roman,
12 point

Margins:
1" on all sides

All pages double spaced
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The body of your paper should be written in your own words and reflect your own ideas. Your professor will provide you with guidelines regarding how many pages your paper should be and how many references you will need to cite.

There are several ways you can reference other people’s work in your paper. The most common forms include: paraphrasing, short direct quotes, and long direct quotes (over 40 words). Paraphrasing refers to re-writing someone else’s idea in your own words. When you paraphrase someone else’s idea the in-text citation looks like this (Linden, 2009) and goes directly after the paraphrased text. The following is an example of a short direct quote and corresponding in-text citation, “Nursing is considered one of the most honorable professions” (Linden, 2009, p. 10). The following is an example of a long direct quote (over 40 words).

Nursing is considered one of the most honorable professions. Many nurses find that caring for others provides a sense of personal satisfaction. While nursing can be a rewarding career, many nurses eventually suffer from professional burn-out due to the stressful and fast-paced nature of the work. (Linden, 2009, p. 82)

Note the difference in punctuation between short and long direct quotes.

Common references include: books, magazines, journals, & webpages

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References


This guide is a very brief introduction to APA formatting. Please consult the *APA Publication Manual (6th ed.*) or your professor for additional information.