Abstract

From Purdue Owl “write a concise summary of the key points of your research. (Do not indent.)

Your abstract should contain at least your research topic, research questions, participants, methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions. You may also include possible implications of your research and future work you see connected with your findings. Your abstract should be a single paragraph double-spaced. Your abstract should be between 150 and 250 words (Angeli, Wagner, Lawrick, Moore, Anderson, Soderlund, & Brizee, 2010).
Psychosocial Theories of Student Development

Essentially, you start the introduction for your paper in your first paragraph. Your paper should be double spaced; you should have the shortened title in CAPS in the top left hand corner, and the page number top right. Also, each paragraph should be indented. The normal template in Word is adequate for writing your paper and usually does not require any changes to the margins.

I am going to pretend to use the resources I have listed in the References page at the end of this paper sample in order to demonstrate how to use in-text citations (McPherson & Shapiro, 2002).

After you have finished the introduction of your paper, you then have the option of creating headings for the body sections. These are not required, but they are very helpful in organizing your paper.

Erickson’s Eight Stages of Development

According to Kuh (2001), Erickson’s “Eight Stages of Development” are very helpful when examining student development. When I am paraphrasing a source, I put in the last name of the author, or authors, then the year of publication in parentheses. This indicates that this is not my original thought, but a reiteration of something that someone else has said or written. By not including the quotation marks, I am indicating that I am paraphrasing that author(s)’s statement.

Chickering’s Identity Development

If I wanted to quote a source, it would look “something like this” (DeZure, 2008, para 3), with the author or authors last name, a comma and then the year of publication all in parentheses. I could have also referenced DeZure (2008) and said “something like this,” (para 3) with the
author(s)’s last name as part of my own writing. Note that when using a direct quote, you need the quotation marks and the in-text citation must include either the page number “like this” (Kuh, 2001, p. 4) or, if using a web document without page numbers, you need to indicate which paragraph the quote came from “like this” (DeZure, 2008, para 3).

Perry’s Cognitive Theory

Should I want to paraphrase a source, but not include the author(s)’s last name, then I could just go ahead, paraphrase the source and then include the citation at the end (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2013).

When you are writing in APA style, it is important to remember that your tone should be formal. You should not make first person references unless absolutely necessary and should avoid contractions such as it’s, that’s, etc. because that creates a less formal feel within your paper.

Conclusion

You need to include the heading for your conclusion in an APA paper. It is in your conclusion that you can include your own thought or insight into your topic, but still try to keep the tone formal.

All resources that you cite within your paper should be listed within a separate page with the heading “References”. It should still have your header and page number though. The best way to do this in Word is to go to the “Insert” tab at the top and click on “Page Break” to create a new page within your document.

You should only include those resources that you actually cite within your paper. It should be double spaced with hanging indents. Keep in mind that the reason you are creating this page is so that your instructor can look back at your paper and find where you got your
information from. Therefore, the page should be alphabetical by the leading author’s last name. If you do not have a specific author, then list it by whatever part of the citation comes next, but continue to list all resources alphabetically.
References


