

**Parts of a Paper–APA Style**

Summarized below are a few of the sections that may appear in many papers written following the APA style and citation format.

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Formatting</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides an overview of the paper</li> <li>If an abstract is required, save the writing of the summary until the paper is completed.</li> <li>Consider that if someone only read this abstract would they know what the purposes and outcome of the paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 150-200 word, sometimes more, summary of the paper.</li> <li>Place abstract after the title page</li> <li>Center “Abstract” one inch from top of page</li> <li>Double space the abstract</li> <li>No indent for the first line</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers the first few paragraphs of the paper including the thesis statement or research question(s).</li> <li>Offers a brief explanation of how any empirical research was conducted</li> <li>Lays foundation for what the rest of the paper covers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New page following abstract</li> <li>Center complete title of paper one inch below top of page</li> <li>No heading use ½” indent to start introduction</li> </ul>
<b>Method</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers details of the research design, if used</li> <li>Important section for replication purposes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contents and subsections may depend on the scholarly discipline related to the paper</li> <li>Present general discussions of methods but reserve content such a survey questions or raw data tables for appendices</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included in research papers, laboratory reports and case studies</li> <li>Determined by the type of analysis presented</li> <li>Focused on data and analysis performed</li> </ul>	Varies with type of paper and reserch method used
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretation of the results of empirical research against the proposed question or assertion</li> <li>Presents issues that may have influenced results, such as small sample sizes or other problems with the research design</li> </ul> <p>Can include highlights regarding critical points made throughout the paper, summarize content and to offer insight as to how research fits in with disciplinary scholarly communications</p>	

Adapted from Diana Hacker’s *A Pocket Style Manual*, (APA Edition), pp. 41-47, 50-52