

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.

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