

APA Style 7th Guide - Abstracts

APSU Writing Center Handout

Confirm with your professor whether an abstract is required for your APA paper. The abstract provides a concise summary of your paper's contents and should be no more than 250 words.

Abstract Format

Margins: 1-inch on all sides.

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.

Title: Abstract centered, bold, and on the first line.

Text: One line below the title, not indented, single paragraph, double-spaced.

Abstract Content

In 1–2 sentences per topic, briefly summarize:

The research problem or question

Key background or literature context

Hypothesis or purpose

Methods (design, sample, procedure)

Major results

Significance of the findings

Keywords

Begin one line below the abstract.

Label: *Keywords* italicized, indented like a paragraph, and not bold

List keywords on the same line as the label, lowercase (except proper nouns), separated by commas.

Do not use ending punctuation.

If the list continues to a second line, double-space but do not indent.

Reminders

The word “Abstract” centered. Do not indent the first line of the abstract paragraph.

A summary of the paper between 150-250 words

Keywords address research topic, population, method, and results.

References

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Purdue Owl Writing Lab. (2022). *APA Formatting and Style Guide (7th edition)*. Purdue University.
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html

Purdue Owl Writing Lab. (2022). *APA Legal References*. Purdue University.
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_legal%20references%20.html