

## **Creating Titles**

### **APSU Writing Center Handout**

#### **What is a Title?**

A title introduces your topic and serves as a hook before your thesis. It should clearly state what the essay will be about, since it's the first thing readers see. A good title summarizes your work in a few words and reflects its main topic or purpose.

#### **After Writing the Paper**

- It's often easiest to create your title after writing your paper or finalizing your thesis.
- Once your essay is complete, ask yourself:
  - What is my essay about?
  - What methods or techniques did I use?
  - What were my main findings or focus?
- Identify the most important keywords from your answers.
- Remove unnecessary words so the title reflects your subject and purpose.

#### **Avoid Question Titles**

- Be direct about what readers will find in your paper.
- Avoid vague or misleading question titles.

#### **Hook your Reader**

- Highlight the most interesting or enticing aspect of your research.
- Think about what would make a reader want to read your paper.

## **Keep it Concise**

- Use a short, focused title that clearly states your topic.
- Avoid overly long or unclear titles that may confuse readers.

## **Consider your Audience**

- Think about who will be reading your work.
- Adjust your language depending on your audience.
- Use terminology your readers will understand.

## **Incorporate Keywords**

Include words that reflect your topic and field.

- **Example:** A history paper might include terms like America or Revolution.
- **Example:** A STEM paper might include terms like cell-based or quantitative analysis.

## **Title Examples**

- AI Applications in Medical Diagnostics
- Launching APSU's First Lacrosse Team
- Women's Roles in Early American Literature
- How Social Media Shapes Academic Communication

## References

Burton, A. (2024, April 25). Writing Strong Titles. Writing Center, University of California, Irvine. <https://writingcenter.uci.edu/2024/04/25/writing-strong-titles/>

Keller, A. (2014). Writing Titles. Hartford Writing Center.

<https://wcenter.hartford.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/261/2014/03/Both-Title-Handouts.pdf>

University of Michigan. (2025). How Do I Write a Great Title? Sweetland Center for Writing.

<https://lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduates/writing-guides/how-do-i-write-a-great-title-.html>