

APA Style: How to Approach Your Paper

WHAT IS AN APA STYLE PAPER?

Papers that are written in APA Style tend to be about topics related to the social sciences (sociology, psychology, business, etc.).

APA Style papers follow certain formatting and citation guidelines, so that every paper is easily readable and refers clearly to the writer's research.

An APA Style paper will always include some form of research. That could mean anything from lab experiments to interviews to research done through library databases.

The tone and style of an APA Style essay tends to be fact-focused, clear, and direct.

HOW DO I APPROACH WRITING AN APA STYLE PAPER?

Every paper will follow a slightly different path, but in general, you want to follow this process:

REVIEW the assignment.

Ask: what is the purpose and end result? What steps do I take to get there?

GATHER information.

Conduct a lab, administer surveys, do library research, etc.

ANALYZE that information.

Ask: how does this information relate to the assignment? What have I learned as a result of my research or experimentation?

ORGANIZE your information.

Create an outline that breaks down the key points gained from research and analysis.

DRAFT your paper.

Write to get everything needed on the page, not to make it perfect.

REFINE your paper.

Revise for clarity, organization, purpose, citation guidelines, and grammar.

WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

From Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL):

[APA Style Workshop](#)

