

# Psych 5057 - Research Paper Guidelines - Fall 2023

Psych 5057, Fall 2023

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## APA Requirements

All research papers for this course should be...

- approximately **5-6** pages in length (**excluding citations**)
- **double spaced**
- using 12 point Arial/Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins on all sides of the paper
- and contain a running header with the title and page number in the upper right hand corner

Purdue University has had a publicly accessible, online guide to APA formatting, a link to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (Purdue OWL), is [here](#). Use this link to find specific examples & APA format guidelines.

As the rubric below details, you receive 5 points for following APA guidelines. If you follow the guidelines only partially, you may lose all 5 points for "Grammar & APA Style".

Although I'm not the biggest fan of Word, I highly recommend you use it for this project because following APA formatting style & guidelines is easy to do within word. A techier alternative is [Overleaf](#), which basically lets you write your papers using a basic form of code called [LaTeX](#).

If you know you're considering a profession where you will make use of LaTeX, this might be a good time to start using it! If you end up trying to use it for the first time, let me know and I will give you additional time to complete the assignment.

## Paper Length

If we wanted to, any paper in this class could end up being really long!

However, I suggest that you stick to the length of items listed below to put a cap on how much you end up writing:

- 0.25-0.5 pages for the Abstract
- 1.5 page Introduction
- 0.5-1 page Methods
- 0.5-1 page Analysis
- 0.5-1 page Results
- 1 page Discussion

## Grading Rubric

Section	Maximum Points	Details
Abstract	10 points	Briefly summarizes research, clear language
Introduction	15 points	Proper background, states purpose and hypothesis
Methods	15 points	Detailed experiment actions, replicable
Analysis	15 points	A detailed description of the hypothesis, and the statistical methods used to assess it
Results	15 points	Clear presentation of the findings, includes figures, tables, and graphs
Discussion	15 points	Interpret your results, how they relate to your hypotheses & the reviewed literature.
Citations	10 points	Proper APA format, from credible sources
Grammar & Proper APA Stylings	5 points	Proper grammar, professional APA appearance

Total points achievable: 100

## AI/LLMs

I highly encourage the use of Large Language Models in the assessment, improvement, and brainstorming of your writing.

If you decide to use AI, I want you to submit an additional, separate, document that details how you used AI for each section of your paper. This AI document does not have to adhere to APA formatting.

The formatting required for the AI Document:

- The title of your research paper
- your name
- section headers for each section of the paper you used AI in

- Each section should include:
  - How you used AI in this section
  - A reflection of your experience

I actually challenge you to use AI to write your abstract at the very end of your writing process, providing a section that is (almost) entirely generated by AI!

## Section Descriptions

1. **Abstract:** This is a concise summary of your research. It should include your research question, methods, main findings, and conclusions.
2. **Introduction:** Here, you'll provide a background on your topic, state the purpose of your research, and present your hypotheses.
3. **Methods:** Detail the experiment or study you conducted. Include information about your participants, the measures you used, and the procedures you followed. It should be detailed enough that someone could replicate your study.
4. **Analysis:** This is where you explain how you analyzed the data you collected. You should detail the statistical tests you used and why they were appropriate for your research.
5. **Results:** In this section, present your findings factually without interpretation. Use a clear and concise presentation, including figures if relevant.
6. **Discussion:** This is where you interpret your results in depth. You should relate your findings back to your original hypotheses and then to the wider field. Discuss how your results fit in with current knowledge, what new insights they bring, and what questions they might raise for future research.
7. **Citations:** Every claim you make that isn't your own original thought needs to be cited, using the proper APA format. Your sources should be credible and relevant to your study.
8. **Grammar & Proper APA Stylings:** This considers the correct use of grammar, punctuation, and spelling, as well as the proper formatting of the paper per APA standards, such as correct in-text citations, reference list, headings, and overall organization of the paper.