

Changes in 2010 Sixth Edition of APA Guidelines

Approximately every 10 years, the American Psychological Association updates its publication manual. The new sixth edition was published this summer. While the majority of APA guidelines in this new edition are similar to the previous 2001 edition, there are some changes. The following is a brief review of some of these changes. Students are encouraged to refer to the 2010 APA manual to become familiar with all of the current APA publication guidelines.

Font :

Times New Roman is now the only accepted font style. APA no longer accepts **Courier**.

Spacing after Punctuation Marks:

New: May use 1 or 2 spaces after period at the end of sentences in the text of a paper. Use 2 spaces after sentences if submitting article for peer review.

Still use 1 space after commas, colons, and semicolons; after periods separating parts of a reference citation, and after periods in a personal name (I. B. Smith).

Headings:

BOLDFACE is now used in headings rather than italics.

Level 1 headings are used for major sections of papers. They are centered in boldface with all major words capitalized. There is no punctuation after a Level 1 heading.

Level 2 headings are used for subsections of Level 1 sections of papers. The heading is flush left, in boldface, with all major words capitalized. There is no punctuation after a Level 2 heading. Text starts on the next line, indented in five spaces.

Level 3 headings are subsections of Level 2 sections. Level 3 headings start indented five spaces, like a new paragraph, in boldface. Only the first word of the heading, first word of subtitle (if subtitles are used), and proper nouns are capitalized. Level 3 headings end with a period. Regular text follows the heading (refer to Table 3.1, APA, 2010, p. 62). Example follows.

Level One Heading Capitalizes All Words

Level Two Headings Are Subsections of Level One

Level three headings are indented. Paragraph starts immediate after that in regular text.

Direct Quotes from Online Material without Pagination

New APA guidelines use “**para**” instead of the symbol ¶ to indicate location of direct quotes of online sources that do not have pagination. Example:

Basu and Jones (2007) went so far as to suggest the need for a new “intellectual framework in which to consider the nature and form of regulation in cyberspace” (para. 4).

Digital Object Identifiers

The biggest change in the new APA guidelines involves citing online periodicals in the reference section. New guidelines have added the **digital objective identifier** (DOI) to the citation. A DOI is a unique string of numbers assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to online periodicals to identify their content and provide a consistent link to their location on the Internet (refer to sections 6.31 and 6.32, pp. 187-192; and section 7.01, pp. 198-205, APA, 2010). New format states

- when DOI is present, no longer have to include URL
- when DOI is not present, include URL

When DOI Is Present

General format:

Author, A. A. (date). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume(number), page numbers.
doi: xx.xxxxxxx

Example:

Herbst-Damm, K. L., & Kulik, J. A. (2005). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology*, 24, 225-229. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225

When DOI Is Not Present

General format:

Author, A. A. (date of publication). Title of article *Title of Journal*, volume(number), page numbers. Retrieved from URL

Example:

Sillick, T. J., & Schutte, N. S. (2006). Emotional intelligence and self-esteem mediate between perceived early parental love and adult happiness. *Applied Psychology*, 2(2), 38-48. Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap>

Other Changes for Online Periodicals on Reference Page:

- no longer include retrieval date unless source information may change over time
- no longer include databases used such as EBSCO or ProQuest

Resources:

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

APA Website: www.apastyle.org

Updated APA guideline notes on ELCSE website under Student Resources
(http://www.aug.edu/elcse/ELCSE_APA_Guidelines.pdf)