

## Ask Nelly

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### Abstract

*Q: How can I typeset a document to match the style of the APA (American Psychological Association)?* A: Athanassios Protopappas has written `apa.cls` which permits easy creation of documents in this style. Information on this package, including a short example paper, is available at <http://www.ilsp.gr//homepages/protopapas/dl/apa/apacls.txt> and at <http://www.ilsp.gr//homepages/protopapas/apacls.html>, and can be downloaded from CTAN.

But a bigger question is, how could one find this information? Well, there are several ways. If you go to the CTAN home page, <http://www.ctan.org/index.html?action=/tex-archive/info/FirstSteps/> and click on the ‘documentation’ button next to ‘know sort of what you want’ and then enter ‘apa’ in the ‘search using Google’ box, among the first URLs that are retrieved is the url for the `apacls.txt` file that was referenced earlier. If you click on this, you get to <http://tug.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/contrib/apa/?action=/tex-archive/macros/latex/contrib/> which lists all the files you need to get going.

After I did this, the editor of the PracT<sub>E</sub>X journal (Lance Carnes) wrote to the author of the package and he (Athanassios Protopapas) was nice enough to send the sample file below. But if you just want to learn how to use `apa.cls` to write your paper, the documentation will probably be enough.

A full example is:

```
%%%%%%%%%%  
%
```

```

% Athanassios Protopapas, October 2005 %
% Mini-example for using apa.cls      %
%                                     %
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
\documentclass[man]{apa}

\title{Example of an APA-style manuscript}
\author{Athanassios Protopapas}
\affiliation{Institute for Language \& Speech Processing\ \ Athens,
Greece}

\abstract{This is an example of a minimal ‘‘manuscript’’ using the
\LaTeX\ apa.cls document class to typeset manuscripts according to
the Americal Psychological Association (APA) manual, fifth edition.}

\acknowledgements{Written at the request of the Prac\TeX\ journal
editors.

Comments may be sent to the author at protopap@ilsp.gr.}

\shorttitle{APA style manuscript} \righthead{APA style manuscript}
\lefthead{A.\ Protopapas}

\begin{document}
\maketitle Here goes the text of the article. Note that the content
begins immediately after \texttt{\maketitle} and there is no blank
line between the title command and the article text. This first
section of the article is typically the introduction and, according
to APA style, should not bear a section heading.\footnote{That is,
there is no ‘‘Introduction’’ section.} Subsequent sections, however,
are titled according to the psychological conventions.

\section{Experiment 1}
Manuscripts in APA style often contain descriptions of experiments.

```

The APA manual specifications for referring to experiments are to use a lowercase ‘e’ when speaking generally, as in the previous phrase, but an uppercase ‘E’ when mentioning a particular experiment (as in the following phrase), such as Experiment~1.

`\subsection{Method}`

The ‘‘method’’ is a subsection of the experimental presentation in which all the details of setting up and conducting the experiment are described. There a number of more or less standard components to a method, shown below.

`\subsubsection{Participants}`

Psychological experiments are conducted with participants, usually humans. Note that these used to be called ‘‘subjects’’ but apparently APA now finds it inappropriate to refer to people with this term. Here we mention how many participants there were, their ages and other information about them.

`\subsubsection{Apparatus}`

Sometimes it is necessary to give the apparatus a special section.

`\subsubsection{Stimuli}`

What the subjects saw, heard, or felt.

`\subsubsection{Procedure}`

What happened to the poor subjects.

`\subsection{Results}`

In this subsection, one shows numbers and statistical analyses. Students are especially unlikely to read this section, but seasoned researchers often avoid it in the first reading, especially if the article is not of particular interest for their own research.

`\subsection{Discussion}`

If the results of the experiment mean anything, this is the place to talk about it.

`\section{Experiment 2}`

Usually one experiment is not enough to convince anyone; you need additional control experiments to make your point.

`\subsection{Method}`

The method can be the same as for the previous experiment, since here we are simply interested in showing the structure of the manuscript.

```
\subsection{Results \& Discussion}
```

This is a good point to show an example of a table following APA conventions. Note that we don't use any vertical separators and that columns can be grouped with partial horizontal lines. Also keep in mind that the caption must precede the table. The label is entirely optional, but useful for referring to the table in the text, for example this one would be Table~\ref{tab:tab1}.

```
\begin{table}[tbp]
```

```
\caption{Some numbers that could be experimental data.}
```

```
\label{tab:tab1}
```

```
\begin{tabular}{lcc}\hline
```

```
          & \multicolumn{2}{c}{Factor 2} \\ \cline{2-3}
Factor 1 & Condition A & Condition B \\ \hline
First    & 586 (231)   & 649 (255)   \\
          & 2.2         & 7.5         \\
Second   & 590 (195)   & 623 (231)   \\
          & 2.8         & 2.5         \\ \hline
```

```
\end{tabular}
```

```
\end{table}
```

```
\section{General Discussion}
```

In psychological articles there is usually some point to the whole experimental exercise, and in the end we get to discuss how important it all is. Although literature is supposed to have been covered in the introduction, for this example we can illustrate the use of bibliographic citations in this final section \cite{art1}.

The accompanying package ‘‘apacite’’ by Erik Meijer provides everything an APA-style writer needs for citations, such as in-text citations in which one can claim that \citeA{boo1} mentioned or failed to mention something.

```
\bibliography{examplebib}
```

`\end{document}`

Which typesets to a fully formatted paper in APA style.