

An Example of an Essay Written in APA Style

Aims Writing Lab

Aims Community College

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(Full Title followed by name of writer and affiliation, if applicable. Some instructors also want the class name and Instructor name to appear here. All lines should be centered horizontally and appear on the top half of the title page)

### Abstract

(DO NOT INDENT): An abstract is a short but comprehensive summary of main points that are made within the essay. The abstract is generally about a paragraph long, should be between 150 and 250 total words, and should not be indented. The abstract allows the reader to quickly understand the contents and purpose of the essay. Since the abstract is the first part of the essay that most readers will see, it is important to make sure that it is well-written and does a comprehensive job of summarizing the essay. If you have the fortune of having your paper published, the abstract will become particularly important in allowing potential readers to find and evaluate your essay.

## An Example of an Essay Written in APA Style

(title, centered, not bolded or italicized)

Even though APA requires a title page, the title of the essay should still appear on the first page of the text. As the paper is written, all sources should be cited within the text. APA in-text citation requires the use of the author's last name and the year that the information was written or presented (ex. Merk, 2010). This is different than MLA format, which requires the page number rather than the year.

### Headings

When using APA format, headings can appear throughout the paper to separate different sections. These headings should be centered and can be used at the beginning of each section of the paper.

#### Subsection Headings

Subsection headings, such as the one above, may also be used to separate different subsections that may appear within the different sections.

## References (centered, on separate page)

Merk, J. (2014). *An Example of an Essay Written in APA Style*. Retrieved from  
[www.aims.edu/onlinewritinglab](http://www.aims.edu/onlinewritinglab)

The reference above is an example of an APA reference. All sources should appear on this page, be in alphabetical order, and use a hanging indent. Consult the current APA manual or an up-to-date grammar manual for to see what criteria must be included in each reference and in what order.