Running Head: WHAT YOU WANT YOUR RUNNING HEAD FOR THE ARTICLE TO BE WHEN IT IS PRINTED (all caps, what people will see in the journal as the page header)

Title of Your Manuscript

Your Name

Institution (Northern Illinois University)
Abstract

The abstract is written on a separate page immediately following the title page/cover sheet. The page must have the “Title of Your Choice” in the upper right hand corner of the page and the word “Abstract” centered on the page. The abstract is to be written in block form (no indentation, one paragraph). The abstract should have no more than 120 words and all numbers—except those that begin a sentence—are typed as arabic numerals (1, 10, 2, not one, ten, two). The abstract should be a brief summary of your purpose, then content. Make the abstract interesting to capture your readers’ interest. This is usually what people read first to decide if they will read the rest of the article. The abstract should contain information about the subject population, sample, problem, the method, the results, and the conclusions. One may also include statements about statistical significance. Basically, keep it short, but informative.
The introduction starts on the page after your abstract. This page contains the header, but also the complete title of your manuscript. The introduction has no subtitle for its section. Also, note that the entire text is typed without right justification.

Because the purpose of the introduction is obvious, the subtitle is not needed. The purpose of the introduction is to inform the reader of the specific problem under study, the research strategy used, and how the problem is related to prior work. The format I want you to follow should answer these questions in this order: (a) What is the historical background on the subject at hand? (b) Why is this research important? (c) What is the relationship between our study and the previous research? (d) What is the point of our study? (e) What is the rationale or link between the study and the research design? (f) What are the theoretical limitations of the study?

The most difficult part of writing the introduction is to explicitly develop the logical connection between your research, past research, and your research design. Pay special attention to these matters as you write.

The introduction does discuss the past literature, but it should not be an exhaustive review. Cite only those studies pertinent to specific issues. Do not completely describe those studies; often all that is needed is a brief description of the variables, manipulations, analyses, and results. Avoid references of tangential or general significance.

In the body of the paper, articles and books are cited by the last names(s) of the author(s) and the year of the publication. When a work has one author it is cited as such: (Karney, 2000) or “In a study of stuff, Karney (2000) found...” If there are two authors,
both authors last names are always cited (Jones & Murphy, 2000). If there are more than
two authors, all names are cited the first time the source is mentioned (Karney, Jones, &
Murphy, 2000). All other subsequent citations are done as such (Karney et al., 2000).
Any other questions, look at the new style manual on pages 207-209. If the citations are
enclosed completely in parentheses, as above, the ampersand (&) is used instead of the
word “and”. If more than one author is cited in text, the word “and” is used. In citing
more than one work by an author(s) in one year, the suffixes a, b, c, etc. are added after
the year. These suffixes are also used in the reference section. For instance, you might
say, “Recent studies by Smith and Wesson (1965, 1975, 1978a, 1978b) have shown
support for the expectancy interpretation.” If different authors are cited simultaneously at
the same point in the text, the citations are arranged alphabetically by the author’s
surnames, separated by semicolons, and enclosed in parentheses. “Recent studies dispute
the behaviorist position (Smith, 1983; Smith and Wesson, 1984; Toeffler et al., 1979).”

Generally, try to avoid footnotes and notations. The literature you reference
should be from original work and should be your interpretation of it. Sometimes, you
have no choice but to rely on secondary sources (i.e., someone else’s interpretation of a
piece of work). Then you might want to cite a secondary source in the text. Place the
source in the text as “...Heider (1958) reported that Asche observed...” In the reference
section list Heider, not Asche, in spite of the fact that it is the work of Asche that is of
interest to you.

Above all, write with clarity and do not use flowery language. For example, “The
eminent American clinical psychologist, Dr. George Kelly, is credited with the first
portrayal of individuals as naïve scientists” could be better worded as “Kelly (1955) was the first to portray persons as naïve scientists.”

Finally, authors must list their hypotheses at the end of their introduction. This gives readers a method of judging whether the hypotheses are meaningful and logically related to the literature cited in the introduction.

Method

Participants (italicized)

Three questions need to be asked while writing this section: (a) Who participated in the study? (b) How many participants were there? (c) How were the subjects selected? Additionally, you should give the major demographic characteristics, the total number of subjects, the number assigned to each experimental group, and the method of subject selection. Report any inducements, whether monetary or otherwise, that were offered to participants. Finally, the use of the word “subjects” is somewhat derogatory, therefore the word “participants” is suggested as an alternative.

Materials

Give detailed descriptions of the materials used in the study and their functions. If you constructed the materials yourself, you should go into super detail so that the readers can comprehend exactly what you used.

Procedure

This subsection should be a summary of each step in the execution of the study. It should include instructions to participants, the formation of the groups, and the specific experimental manipulations, if any. Describe all randomization, counterbalancing, and other control features of the research design. In general, the method should tell the reader...
what was done and how it was done, in sufficient detail to permit the reader to replicate the study.

Results

The results section follows the methods section on the same page or the next line, just as the Method section did for the introduction. The purpose of the results section is to summarize the collected data and your statistical treatment of the data. First, briefly state the main idea of your results findings. Second, report the data in detail so that you can justify conclusions you intend to make in later sections. State the results and do not discuss implications or make inferences. This is what the discussion section is for.

Report all relevant results, including those that do not support your hypothesis. You may chose to present data summaries in the form of graphs or tables. Refer to graphs, pictures, or drawings as "figures" and to tables as "tables." For example, you might say, "Figure 1 is a graph of goal acceptance levels for the three experimental groups. Each figure goes on a separate page. Captions for all figures go together the same page (see figure caption page).

If tables are used, place each on a separate page with the page header and number in the upper right-hand corner. The table should be done as shown on page 10.

When you report the results of a test of statistical significance you must include information concerning the obtained magnitude of the test statistic, the degrees of freedom, the probability of observing such a test ratio given that the null hypothesis is true, and the direction of the effect. Here are examples: "As predicted, the females reported greater liking for school than did males, t(22) = 2.62, p < .01" and "The analysis
of variance indicated significant differences in latency of response for subjects not provided with training ($F(1, 34) = 123.78, p < .001$)."

Discussion

Open the discussion with a clear statement on the support of your original hypothesis/es. In addition, you are free to examine, interpret, and qualify your results, as well as to draw inferences from them. Be guided by questions such as these: (a) What have I contributed in this research? (b) How has my study helped to resolve issues in this content area? (c) Can I draw a clear conclusion from this study?

Next, you want to talk about possible sources of error in your study. For the purposes of this class, I want you to mention at least three. Talk about how this may have placed limitations on your study or affected the data. Finally, You should talk about further studies that could be done to enhance our understanding of the phenomenon under study. This is your chance to be creative and use your own imagination to come up with interesting ideas on further study.

Note that the APA paper is a logical flow of information from how the problem was stated, how the problem was conceptualized, how the problem was researched, how the data was analyzed, what the findings were, and how the findings were interpreted.
References

References always start on a new page directly after the discussion.


Author Note

In a typical paper there are two author notes. One acknowledges help the author has received; the other indicates where the author may be contacted for reprints, etc. Note that author's notes are not numbered and that there are no subheadings.
Table 1

*Mean Alpha Power Scores as a Function of Type of Processor and Passage*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Processor</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Exposition</th>
<th>Poetry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Analytic</td>
<td>Holistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading alpha data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic</td>
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<td>3.96</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recall alpha data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytic</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure Captions

Figure 1. Figure captions are written on a separate page immediately preceding the figure itself.

Figure 2. Mean temperature readings in July.
Shortened Title of Your Choice (less than 50 characters, usually first 2 or 3 words of manuscript title)

Figure 1 TOP (This goes on the back of your figure in light pencil to indicate the top, there is no writing or identification on the front. You should also include your shortened title. You can ignore page number.)