

APA Style

for Literature Reviews

Sections

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- [Main Body of Paper]
- Conclusions
- References

Throughout Your Paper

- Double spaced
- 1" margins on all sides
- Times New Roman, 12pt font
- Running head (top left)
- Page numbers (top right)

Title Page

Running head: SHORT VERSION OF TITLE

1

The Title of Your Paper With All Words Capitalized

Your Name

University Affiliation

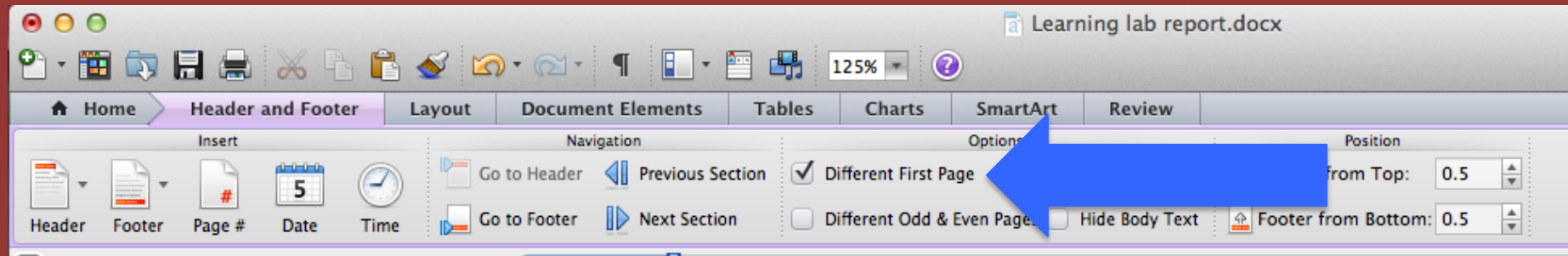
- Title = 10-12 words
- Center alignment
- Top half of page, towards center

SHORT VERSION OF TITLE

2

Running head on subsequent pages

Header



Header and Footer → Different First Page

Abstract

Running head: SHORT VERSION OF TITLE

1

The Title of Your Paper With All Words Capitalized

Your Name

University Affiliation

Page break

SHORT VERSION OF YOUR TITLE

2

Abstract

Write your abstract here. Do not indent. This is a BREIF synopsis of your study and findings.

Abstract

- Brief synopsis of your research question and primary findings.
- Typically 150-250 words
- Define abbreviations

Literally write the word “Abstract”

SHORT VERSION OF YOUR TITLE

2

Abstract

Write your abstract here. Do not indent. This is a BREIF synopsis of your study and findings.

Introduction

SHORT VERSION OF YOUR TITLE

2

Abstract

Write your abstract here. Do not indent. This is a BREIF synopsis of your study and findings.

Page break

SHORT VERSION OF YOUR TITLE

3

The Title of My Paper

Begin first paragraph

Introduction



- Title matches title page
- Title is centered on first line
- Do not write “Introduction”!
- Do not bold, underline, etc.

- Background info & justification for your question
 - Identify the importance of the research question
 - Explicitly identify research question (or hypothesis)
- “Hour glass” metaphor
 - Start broad, get narrow
 - Discussion will be the reverse

In Text Citations

- **One Author:**
 - Walker (2000) compared reaction times...
 - In a recent study of reaction times, participants completed the Stroop task (Walker, 2000).
- **Two Authors:**
 - ...as Nightlinger and Littlewood (1993) demonstrated...
 - Results showed that reaction times were affected (Nightlinger & Littlewood, 1993).
- **Three or more authors:**
 - List only the first author's name followed by "et al." in every citation, even the first: Silas et al. (1993) identified...
 - Exception: If doing so would create ambiguity between different sources, cite the minimum numbers of authors needed to resolve ambiguity: (Jones, Smith, Liu, et al., 2020) vs. (Jones, Smith, Ruiz, et al., 2020)

In Text Citations

- **Two or more works within the same parentheses**
 - Order the citations alphabetically and then by year.
 - Previous research has shown....(Balda, 1980; Balda, 1982; Pepperberg & Funk, 1990; Storandt et al., 1997)

Conclusions

Format

- No page break
- “Conclusions” centered & bold

Content

- Summarize findings with respect to research question
- Describe how your study extends the literature
- Describe practical implications and/or recommendations, as applicable
- Describe limitations and future directions

References

Page break

SHORT VERSION OF YOUR TITLE

5

References

References

- **One author**

- Mellers, B. A. (2000). Choice and the relative pleasure of consequences. *Psychological Bulletin*, 126, 910-924.

- **Two authors**

- Kilmoski, R., & Palmer, S. A. (1993). The ADA and the hiring process in organizations. *Consulting Psychology Journal*, 45, 10-36.

- **Three-Seven authors**

- Wolchik, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., & Tein, J. A. (2000). Treatment for sexually abused children. *American Psychologist*, 55, 1040-1049.

- **More than Seven authors**

- **List authors 1-6** then use an ellipsis ... and list the **last author**. (only 7 names)
- Adams, A., Brown, B., Carter, C., Daniels, D., Erikson, E., Frank, F., ... Johnson, J. (2015). How to cite references with 7 or more authors. *Journal Name*, 26, 101-102.

Extra Info.

- Numbers
 - Never start a sentence with a number
 - Numbers 10+ are always digits
 - Numbers <10 are written as words... except
 - If the number is a unit of measurement (5 s intervals)
 - If you are referring to the title of one of a series (Figure 1)
 - If you are expressing decimal quantities, ratios, percentages, etc. (5.45 %)

- Abbreviations

- See APA manual
- On a terms first appearance the word must be fully spelled out followed by the abbreviation in parenthesis (reaction time (RT))
- Always use the abbreviations for units of measurements—write 5 s the first time not 5 seconds

Section Headings

1	Centered, Boldface, Title Case Heading Text starts a new paragraph.
2	Flush left, Boldface, Title Case Heading Text starts a new paragraph.
3	<i>Flush Left, Boldface Italic, Title Case Heading</i> Text starts a new paragraph.
4	Indented, Boldface Title Case Heading Ending With a Period. Paragraph text continues on the same line as the same paragraph.
5	<i>Indented, Boldface Italic, Title Case Heading Ending With a Period.</i> Paragraph text continues on the same line as the same paragraph.