APA 7TH EDITION CHANGES FOR STUDENT WRITERS

Below you’ll find the changes between APA 6th Edition and APA 7th Edition that are most relevant to student writers. They are organized by section of the paper, rather than section of the manual, to make them more intuitive as you write. The checklist items are also parenthetically cross referenced with section numbers from the APA Style Manual 7th Edition wherever possible. If the item doesn't seem clear, look it up!

**Student Writing vs Journal Writing:** APA now has two standard formats; one is for journals, which is what APA has always been designed for, but now there is another set of standards for student writers. The list below uses the student writing standard for items that differ between the two.

- **Title Page and Formatting for Student Writing**
  - Unlike 6th Edition, you no longer use a running head on any pages; the header is just a page # aligned top right on all pages (2.18)
  - Titles should be brief and clear, but there is no longer a word limit (2.4)
  - Similar to 6th Edition, you put the Title in bold Title Case, centered, in top ½ of page, but with one blank line following (2.3)
  - In 7th edition, students should put the Author, University, Course Name and Number, Course Instructor, and Due Date each on separate lines beginning one blank line down from title, all centered Title Case, not bold (2.3)
  - The 3rd, 4th, and 5th level headings have been revised; 4th and 5th level headings are now the same as 2nd and 3rd level respectively, but indented with the paragraph text beginning on the same line as the heading (2.27)
  - 7th Edition adds the option to use either serif or sans serif fonts that are clean and accessible (2.19)
  - 7th Edition explicitly says to use only one space after a period (6.1)

- **Abstract** (not always required)
  - “Abstract” is now a bold heading in 7th edition, like a normal 1st level heading (2.9)
  - Numbers included in an abstract now follow the same guidelines as the rest of the text: spell out any number below 10, and use numerals for numbers 10 or larger (6.32)

- **Language**
  - While previous editions of APA have encouraged third-person writing, 7th edition explicitly says you should not refer to yourself or your coauthors in the third person (4.16)
  - 7th Edition endorses the singular “they” and says to avoid labeling people if the label is irrelevant to your research (e.g., use singular “they” by default and avoid gendered language when not needed; 5.5)
  - Chapter 5 of the 7th Edition manual now provides updated bias-free language guidelines that are in line with current best-practice; that chapter is strongly recommended reading.
  - When an abbreviation occurs next to a citation, 7th Edition says to put both in the same parentheses and separate them with a semicolon (e.g, like this; 6.25)
• **In-text References**
  - 7th Edition now uses “et al.” in any citation with three or more authors, unless doing so would create ambiguity about the citation (e.g., you have two sources from the same year with the same first author or authors; 8.18)
  - 7th Edition still requires page numbers for direct quotes, but no longer requires them for paraphrased material (8.25)
  - Personal Communication guidelines have been updated in 7th Edition. In addition to e-mail, conversations, letters, etc., you now cite class handouts and materials, if they are not available to the reader, as personal communication (e.g., J. Q. Anyone, personal communication, September 30, 2014; 8.9)
  - 7th Edition offers explicit guidelines on citations inside quotes; when quotes contain a citation, include the citation in your quote but do not include the source in the reference list (8.32)

• **References Page**
  - In 7th Edition, “References” is a normal 1st level heading
  - Reference types for many sources have changed between 6th and 7th Editions (9, 10)
  - In 7th Edition, always include the journal issues number (unlike 6th Edition, which omitted the issue number for journals paginated by volume; 10.1)
  - In 7th Edition, do not include a place name with the publisher for books (10.2)
  - Unlike 6th Edition, the 7th Edition now includes up to 20 authors for a given citation before using “…” to indicate omitted names (9.8)
  - In 7th Edition, use a straight URL (without “retrieved from”) for most sources read online (9.33)
  - Use “retrieved from” with a date ONLY when the content is time-specific and designed to change, such as a social media feed, an online profile, and so on (9.16)
  - 7th Edition strongly encourages writers to include a DOI whenever possible, and to present them as hyperlinks rather than the old “DOI-colon-number” format (9.34)
  - Reverse DOI lookup is available for older work that has since been assigned a DOI (see the “search metadata” tab on [www.crossref.org/](http://www.crossref.org/))

• **Tables and Figures**
  - 7th Edition says to left-align all tables and figures (do not center them; 7.6)
  - In 7th Edition, unlike 6th, for both tables and figures, place the number, e.g. “Table 1,” in bold on one line above the table or figure, and the title in title case on a second line below the number, with both lines both above the table or figure itself (7.9, Table 7.1, 7.23, Figure 7.1)

*By the AUNE Writing Center*