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The line above is the title of the paper. Please don’t call it “Assignment X.” Use a title that will tell your reader what the paper will be about. The title should be centered, but is not bold or italicized. Margins in the paper are set at one inch for top, bottom, left, and right. The type is left-justified only—that means the left margin is straight, but the right margin is ragged. Each paragraph is indented five spaces. It is best to use the tab key to indent. The line spacing is double throughout the paper, with no exceptions. There are never any extra spaces after headings or between sections. Use two spaces after the period at the end of sentences. The font style used in this template is Times New Roman and the font size is 12.

This section of the paper is assumed to be the introduction, but does not require the section to be labeled “Introduction.” It is important to be immediately clear what your paper will be about. See Section 2.05 of the APA manual for more information about writing an introduction.

When you are ready to write, and after having read these instructions completely, you can delete these directions and start typing. The formatting should stay the same. However, one item that you will have to change is the page header, referred to as the running head in APA style, which is placed at the top of each page along with the page number. The running head is an abbreviated title that is printed at the top of the pages of the paper, so that if the pages are intermixed with other papers they will be identifiable. The title should be no longer than 50 characters, including spaces and punctuation and is just a shortened version of your complete title. Again, do not use “Assignment X” as your running head. Don’t shorten your running head title too much. If your regular title is very short, you may use the same one for the running head. Double click on the words in the page header. This should enable you to edit the words. The first page should include the words Running head, followed by a colon and the abbreviated title. All other pages will include only the abbreviated title. The title is in all capital letters. You should not have to edit the page numbers.

The APA manual also discusses the desired tone of writing, grammar, punctuation, formatting for numbers, and a variety of other important topics. Although the APA style rules are used in this template, the purpose of the template is only to demonstrate spacing and formatting. The student will need to refer to the APA manual for other format directions. Citations may or may not be necessary, depending upon your assignment. Just remember that any information that you learned from another source and are including in your paper must be cited (Smith & Jones, 2010) and if you are using a direct quote, “the citation must include a page number” (Peterson, 2010, p. 12). Notice that an ampersand is used instead of ‘and’ in citing two authors and that the period at the end of the sentence goes after the citation. There are many other handy rules in your APA manual.

The reference list should appear at the end of a paper at the beginning of a new page. It provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source you cite in the body of the paper. Each source you cite in the paper must appear in your reference list; likewise, each entry in the reference list must be cited in your text. A sample reference page is included below; this page includes examples of how to format different reference types (e.g., books, journal articles, information from a website). The examples on the following page include examples taken directly from the APA manual. If references are not required for your assignment, just delete that page.

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