Checking an APA Student Paper Before Submission

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PSY 210: Research Writing

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October 15, 2026

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This illustrative paper uses fictional student and course details. It explains a formatting check, not a study or a report of research findings. The Purdue Online Writing Lab (n.d.-a) describes the basic layout of a seventh-edition student paper, including its title page, page numbers, spacing, and margins. A formatting checklist helps a writer inspect those visible elements before submission.

Check the Page Layout

A student paper uses letter-size pages, 1-inch margins, double spacing, and a consistent readable font. Its header carries a page number but normally no running title (Purdue Online Writing Lab, n.d.-a). The title page also identifies the student, institution, course, instructor, and due date. An instructor's assignment directions should be checked before submission.

Check the Paper Sections

The paper title appears again at the start of the text. Headings organize later sections when needed; the opening introduction does not need a heading. An abstract is usually omitted from a student paper unless an instructor requests one (Purdue Online Writing Lab, n.d.-a).

Check Citations and References

A reference list begins on a new page, with a centered bold label. Each cited work should have a matching entry, and entries use double spacing and a hanging indent (Purdue Online Writing Lab, n.d.-b). This example cites two Purdue OWL guides to demonstrate that link. A template can place the text, but the writer must still verify author names, dates, titles, URLs, and the relationship between every in-text citation and its entry.

References

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.-a). *General format*. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.-b). *Reference list: Basic rules*. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html