Introduction to APA Style & Academic Writing

This is a suggested sequence of lessons for student mastery of APA Style and academic writing at a collegiate level. The guide includes resources from Academic Writer and the APA Style website.

This guide is broken into eight weeks to provide flexibility for instructors. Each week can be spaced across a longer length term as decided by the instructor. For each weekly topic, suggested combinations of Tutorials and Quick Guides can be found in the Learn section on Academic Writer. Individual assignment links can be found in your LTI Link Package from your Customer Success Specialist.

The goal of this curriculum is that students will create a written paper using APA Style for formatting, cited sources, and presentation of ideas and findings.

Pedagogy & Purpose

Academic writing is required for all students at all levels – undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral. Writing performance is a frequent area of concern for instructors across the country. Feedback from professors in several domains, including nursing, education, and psychology, has shown a need for supporting writing. Academic writing instruction in high schools is varied and not always a focus, thus students are usually not coming to colleges with much experience in this type of writing (Boscolo et al., 2007).

This curriculum was designed to assist college students who need an introduction to both APA Style and academic writing and developed based on leading research on the instruction of writing. This curriculum guide follows the thought processes of Darowski et al. (2022) by creating an intervention plan that is brief and implemented in conjunction with content instruction. The order of assignments is in line with the thinking presented in Graham et al. (2015) where the process is “designed to increase students’ knowledge about the characteristics of good writing” (p. 221). The structure of the writing process from beginning to end is intended to share strategies for instruction where “skills were modeled, explained, and practiced” (Graham et al., 2015, p. 221).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Topic</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Academic Writer Assignments</th>
<th>Academic Writer Quizzes</th>
<th>Additional Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1: Introducing APA Style    | Students will review the basics of APA Style manuscripts – both crafting and reading. | Tutorial: Basics of APA Style  
Quick Guide (QG): Types of Journal Articles  
QG: Types of Student Papers | Quiz: Basics of APA Style  
22 questions | Test Your APA Style Knowledge  
This document can be used as student practice, discussion board questions, an additional quiz activity, and/or modeling practice for APA Style. |
| Week 2: Research Questions       | Students will develop questions to guide their research and shape their writing. | Tutorial: Research Questions and Hypotheses  
Tutorial: Prewriting | Quiz: Research Questions and Hypotheses  
16 questions | Use the Research Lab Book when creating a new paper in the Writing Center to gain support during the research development process. Activities within the Research Lab Book guide students through the process of generating hypotheses. |
| Week 3: Paper Formatting         | Students will follow APA Style to set up academic papers required in their coursework. | QG: Basic Paper Set Up  
QG: Heading Levels  
Optional QG: Running Head (suggested for doctoral students) | Quiz: Basic Paper Set Up  
7 questions | Student Paper Set Up Guide  
This guide helps students set up papers and ensure they have the required elements for an APA Style manuscript. |
| Week 4: Clarity of Writing       | Students will write using language that ensures readers clearly understand the ideas presented in their writing. | QG: Clarity  
QG: Conciseness  
QG: Continuity  
QG: Transition Sentences | Quiz: Clarity  
12 questions | Transitions Guide  
The transitions guide provides samples of ways to show clarity in connecting ideas, transitioning to a new topic, or introducing additional findings. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Topic</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Academic Writer Assignments</th>
<th>Academic Writer Quizzes</th>
<th>Additional Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 5: Inclusive Language**      | Students will use language that shows inclusiveness and understanding of a variety of personal identities. | Tutorial: How to Reduce Bias in Language: Writing About Individuals with Respect and Objectivity  
QG: Intersectionality  
Optional QG: Age, Disability, Gender, Racial and Ethnic Identity, Sexual Orientation, and/or Socioeconomic Status | Quiz: How to Reduce Bias in Language  
13 questions | APA Inclusive Language Guidelines  
This glossary-style resource provides definitions for terms used when talking about different groups of individuals. Use this guide to ensure respect, inclusiveness, and accuracy when writing. |
| **Week 6: Reliable Sources & Citing In-Text** | Students will cite reliable sources to write in accordance with university honor codes. | Tutorial: How to Find Reliable Sources  
Tutorial: How to Avoid Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism | Quiz: How to Avoid Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism  
9 questions  
Quiz: How to Find Reliable Sources  
15 questions | APA Style Research Article Activity  
This activity helps guide students in analyzing articles to determine how the content is relevant to student research.  
Avoiding Plagiarism Guide  
This guide provides definitions for and ways to avoid common types of plagiarism in writing. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Topic</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Academic Writer Assignments</th>
<th>Academic Writer Quizzes</th>
<th>Additional Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 7: Quotations, Paraphrases & Reporting Findings** | Students will use direct quotes and paraphrases from reliable sources to support their claims and ideas. | Tutorial: How to Report Scientific Research  
QG: Direct Quotations and Paraphrases  
QG: Summarizing & Paraphrases  
QG: Citing References in Text | Quiz: Direct Quotations and Paraphrases  
10 questions |  
**Discussion Phrases Guide**  
This guide provides sentence starters for writing about specific scenarios in reporting on research.  
**Paraphrasing and Citation Activities**  
Three activities for students to practice how to paraphrase and cite those paraphrases correctly in text.  
**Six Steps to Proper Citation Infographic**  
This infographic provides a succinct visual process for citing works in APA style. |
| **Week 8: Organizing References** | Students will properly format and organize reference lists of sources utilizing APA Style to maintain continuity and clarity. | QG: Reference List  
QG: DOIs and URLs | Quiz: Reference List  
13 questions |  
**APA Style Reference Guide for Journal Articles, Books, and Edited Book Chapters**  
This resource shares three common types of cited materials labeled with essential information.  
**APA Style References Formatting Activity**  
This document can be used as student practice, discussion board questions, additional quiz activities, and/or modeling practice to correct citations using APA 7 Style Guide. |
References

