APA Style Guide

Spelling:

In APA style, American English is used. Spelling should conform to the *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (2005).

Abstract:

* An abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the manuscript and should consist of approximately 250 words.

Parentheses:

* APA does not allow back-to-back parentheses. So instead of (GLM)(Fryer, 1986), it should be (GLM; Fryer, 1986)

In-text citations:

* There is no comma before "et al." (Ex: Marsh et al., 2006)

* If there are 6 or more authors, list only the first author followed by et al. (e.g., Margo et al., 2009)

References:

* Double space throughout.

* Use a hanging indent

* Do not include issue numbers unless the journal is paginated by issue.

Headings:

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<th>APA Headings</th>
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Commas:

* A comma should be included before the conjunction in lists (e.g., red, white, and blue; Don, Smith, & Jenkins, 2008)

* Put a comma before the conjunction if separating two complete sentences (e.g., I went to the park, and I went to the store.) Do not use a comma otherwise (e.g., I went to the park and then the store.)

Statistics:

* p-values should be italicized, with a space before and after the “=” or “<” symbol (e.g., \( p < .006 \))

* Chronbach’s alpha should be reported using the symbol, e.g., (\( \alpha = .70 \))

* When denoting an entire sample, use \( N \). When reporting a subsample, use \( n \).

Quotation marks:

* Do not use quotation marks to identify the anchors of a scale. Instead, use italics (e.g., always, never)

* Only use single quotation marks when within double quotation marks to set of material that in the original source was enclosed in double quotation marks.

Other issues:

* The use of while should be limited to its temporal meaning (i.e., to link events occurring simultaneously). When that is not what is meant, the terms although, whereas, and, or but should be substituted in its place.

* Do not use contractions (e.g., can’t)