Senior Field Paper Strategies
APA Style

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To Receive Additional Help

- style manual
- grammar book
- books on writing research papers
- Ms. Overton in the Tutorial and Enrichment Center:
  - Gipson Building
  - 706-821-8345

Abstract

- summary
- 75 - 120 words
- do not indent

Abstract

- include
  - hypothesis
  - main ideas
  - conclusions
  - was hypothesis supported?
Abstract (cont’d.)

• if you
  – conducted an experiment
  – passed out questionnaires
  – interviewed people, etc.

• then . . . (see next slide)

Abstract (cont’d.)

• include a BRIEF summary of what you did
  – subjects
  – methods
  – results supported hypothesis?

Literature Review

• include the basic facts:
  – who?
  – when?
  – what?
Literature Review

BE SPECIFIC!

Literature Review: Sample #1

Connors (2002) studied the development of child care facilities in rural towns of fewer than 3,000 residents. She based her findings on a total of 16 facilities. Her subjects included 25 experienced child care workers and 25 first-year workers. All subjects answered a questionnaire containing 10 open-ended and 20 closed-ended questions about their services.

Specifics of the research: describe subjects, number of subjects, methods used
Literature Review: Sample #2

Name/date of source in first sentence

What the researcher did
In 2002, Miller investigated child care programs in 5 small towns in Georgia. Using questionnaires and personal interviews, he collected evidence from 40 parents and 40 child care workers, all of whom were randomly selected. Both the questionnaires and the interviews contained 30 closed-ended questions.

Specifics of the research: describe subjects, number of subjects, methods used

Literature Review: Use Action Verbs

| studied     | looked at               |
| examined    | hypothesized           |
| discovered  | analyzed               |
| explored    | collected              |
| searched    | interviewed            |
| investigated| found                  |
| questioned  | selected               |

Literature Review

Use variety in your sentences!
Methodology: Steps YOU Took

• sample/subjects: specifics
  – who?
  – how many?
  – ages, sexes?
  – how selected?

Methodology: Steps YOU Took

• process (what did you do?): specifics
  – questionnaires? interviews? observations?
  – where?
  – what did you actually do?

Methodology

What would someone else need to know in order to duplicate your study?
Results

- be specific
- use statistics
- use charts/graphs

Discussion

- significance of your results?
- prove your hypothesis?

Conclusion

- conclusions?
- suggestions for future research?
Be Very Careful

• cite your sources accurately
• compare as you copy direct quotes
  – spelling
  – punctuation
  – spacing

What Is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism means using someone else’s ideas, words, or statistics in your writing without giving credit to the source (without proper documentation).

Documentation

• must give the source for ideas, words, phrases, facts, statistics, etc.,
• must include info to find that source
• use APA manual for formats
Documentation

• must give accurate documentation
• must cite the source you actually used

How Can You Avoid Plagiarism?

3 methods:
• summarize
• paraphrase
• use a direct quotation

Original Source

(Compare with Samples on Next 11 Slides)


In the first statistical digest of these studies, Mary Lee Smith and her colleagues (1980) combined the results of 475 investigations. For psychotherapists, the welcome result was that "the evidence overwhelmingly supports the efficacy of psychotherapy" (p. 183). Figure 13-5 depicts their finding – that the average therapy client ends up better off than 80 percent of the untreated individuals on waiting lists. The claim is more modest than it first appears – by definition, about 50 percent of untreated people also are better off than the average untreated person. Nevertheless, Smith and her collaborators concluded that "psychotherapy benefits people of all ages as reliably as schooling educates them, medicine cures them, or business turns a profit" (p. 183).
Summary

• shortened, condensed version -- brief overview
• must give credit (documentation)

Sample Summary (APA Style)

Myers (1993) presents research that suggests that psychotherapy helps individuals who have mental disorders, although many people may show improvement without any treatment at all.

Paraphrase

• rewrite in your own words
• must give credit (documentation)
Sample Paraphrase (APA)

Myers (1993) reports that Smith et al. evaluated 475 studies and found that people who receive psychotherapy have better results than 80 percent of those who do not receive treatment. However, Myers notes that approximately 50 percent of those who are not treated do better than the average person who is not treated. Smith et al. concluded that psychotherapy may help everyone.

Direct Quotation

• copy words or expressions directly
• must give credit (documentation)

Avoid Plagiarism

• if copy any words from source:
  – must use quotation marks (short quote) or indenting (long quote)
  – must give documentation
2 Formats for Documentation

- 2 methods
- can use either method
  - variety makes better paper

Documentation Format #1

- put author and year in sentence
- put the page number at end of quote
- see sample on next slide

Sample Direct Quotation (APA)

Myers (1993) summarizes other research which shows that “the average therapy client ends up better off than 80 percent of the untreated individuals on waiting lists” (p. 430).
Documentation Format #2

• put all information in parentheses at end of quote
• see sample on next slide

Sample Direct Quotation:

Other research shows that “the average therapy client ends up better off than 80 percent of the untreated individuals on waiting lists” (Myers, 1993, p. 430).

Should You Provide Documentation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• any and all data, facts, info not commonly known or accepted</td>
<td>• ideas you come up with on your own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• exact words</td>
<td>• familiar proverbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• paraphrases and summaries</td>
<td>• famous quotations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• tables/charts/graphs</td>
<td>• common knowledge (found in several books)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Is Plagiarism?

• giving credit to the wrong source:
  – wrong author, title, date, page number, etc.
  – source you did not actually read
  – source not listed on your References page

What Is Plagiarism?

• using quote that you do not document or format properly
  – remember -- you must:
    • put quotation marks around the words you borrowed, AND . . .
    • tell author(s), year, and page number

What Is Plagiarism?

• submitting paper written by someone else
• submitting a paper you wrote for another course without current instructor’s permission to do so
What Is Plagiarism?

• reproducing all or part of copyrighted document, even if downloaded from the Internet
• using information from your sources without giving proper documentation, EVEN IF YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING IT CORRECTLY (ie: even if you did not do it wrong on purpose)

What Can You Do?

• take notes carefully
• always include proper documentation
• use proper citation style
• follow the style manual

• be careful when paraphrase
• use variety of techniques
• try to incorporate quotations into flow of paper
What Can You Do?

• use direct quotations carefully:
  – if you borrow 3 or more consecutive words
  – use direct quotation only when unique or well-worded
  – do not use quotation to repeat what you have already said

What Can You Do?

• if you use a direct quotation:
  – explain its significance
  – copy it exactly
  – indicate what words you borrowed
  – give proper documentation

Your Style Is Unique

If you use a lot of quotations, your paper will be very choppy because other writers do not write like you do.
Remember: Help is Available

Contact Ms. Overton in the T&EC:
– Gipson Building
– 706-821-8345
– Make an appointment

Senior Field Papers

Simply Fabulous Presentations
(as long as you follow the rules!!)