

APA STYLE

FORMATTING

Student Papers

WHAT IS IT?

The American Psychological Association (APA) style is used for formatting and documenting work in a variety of disciplines, including many social sciences. Using APA format correctly increases your credibility as a writer by demonstrating your knowledge of the conventions of your discipline. In 2019, APA updated its manual to include instructions for student papers as well as professional ones.

GENERAL FORMAT

- APA permits the use of a variety of fonts as long as they are accessible to all users (12-point Times New Roman, 11-point Calibri, 11-point Georgia, 11-point Arial, 10-point Lucinda Sans Unicode, Computer Modern)
- Margins should be set to one inch on all sides. Tabs (for indenting) should be set to 0.5”.
- APA essays have four distinct sections/elements: 1) Title Page, 2) Abstract, 3) Main Body, and 4) References.
- Although APA does not include a title length limit, they encourage titles that are focused and succinct.
- Number each page. The title page is page 1.
- Double-space the entire paper.

TITLE PAGE

- Insert the page number (1) at the top of the title page aligned right.
- In the upper half of the page, center the complete title using title case, bolded (**Reconstruction of the Globe**).
- Include one double-spaced line between the title and your name.
- Under the blank line, center your name (first, middle initial, last).
- Under your name, center the department name and your institutional affiliation (History, Kennesaw State University).
- Include the course number and name (HIST 4100: History of England).
- Add your instructor’s name (George Boyd, PhD).
- Assignment due date (March 23, 2021)

ABSTRACT

An abstract provides a brief overview of a paper; consult your specific guidelines to determine if one is required. Student usually paper do not include abstracts. If you are required to include an abstract, center the word **Abstract** on the second page in bold text. Begin the abstract on the next line without indenting. An abstract consists of one paragraph of 150-250 words. If you are required to include keywords, indent the first line after the abstract, write *Keywords* in italics, followed by a colon. After the colon, list 3-5 keywords representative of paper.

MAIN BODY

- All pages include page numbers
- On the first page of the body of your essay, center your title in upper and title case, bolded.
- On the next line, begin the body of your paper; indent the first line of all paragraphs.
- To divide a paper into sections, APA specifies five distinct heading levels. Use Level 1 headings for sections, Level 2 for subsections, Level 3 for subsections of subsections, etc., according to the following formatting:
 - LEVEL 1: **Center, Bold, Title Case Heading** (Begin text as a new paragraph.)
 - LEVEL 2: **Left-align, Bold, Title Case Heading** (Begin text as a new paragraph.)
 - LEVEL 3: **Left align, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading** (Begin text as a new paragraph.)
 - LEVEL 4: **Indent, Bold, Title Case Heading, Period.** Begin body text on same line.
 - LEVEL 5: **Indent, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading, Period.** Begin body text on same line.
- Use the singular “they” for people who identify “they” as their pronoun or for a person whose gender is not known.

- The APA Manual specifies the following stylistic conventions for writers:
 - *Past tense* is used to discuss previous/published research (i.e., write “Durante found” not “Durante finds”).
 - *First person point of view* is appropriate when discussing your research and avoids attributing actions to your paper or study that only a person could do (i.e., write “I conclude” not “the study concludes”). However, do focus on the research as much as possible (i.e., write “the data demonstrated” rather than “I demonstrated”).
 - *Active voice* is preferred (i.e., write “lunar data contradicted participant accounts” not “participant accounts were contradicted by lunar data”).

REFERENCES

- The reference page comes immediately after the main body. Center the word "References" on the firstline.
- Begin entries on the next line using hanging indentation (first line of each entry is aligned left; subsequent lines are indented).
- Alphabetize all entries (last name, first initial) by the last name of the first author of each work.
- Include every source cited in the paper; do not list sources not cited in the paper.
- *Refer to our APA-CITING SOURCES handout to format both in-text citations and reference entries.*

EXAMPLES

Running head: SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON LYCANTHROPY 1

Social Influences on Lycanthropy:
Examining the Lunar Myth
Sturgis T. Owl
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SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON LYCANTHROPY 2

Abstract

Lycanthropy and related conditions have evolved as a legitimate topic for psychological research as many investigators have sought to identify triggers for patients' reported transformations. To test accepted lunar cycle correlation findings such as those of Durante (2006), the researcher conducted a temporal association test using the narratives of individuals diagnosed with clinical lycanthropy to concurrent media coverage of lunar events. An analysis of the data revealed that forecasted rather than actual lunar activity is the best predictor of such incidents, thus suggesting that further research is needed into the psychosomatic aspects of the condition.

Keywords: lycanthropy, transformation, moon

SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON LYCANTHROPY 3

Social Influences on Lycanthropy:
Examining the Lunar Myth

The possibility of real corporeal transformation of the human form long was a topic relegated to the realm of fantasy or fiction and ignored by any hard or social science. Yet, human fascination with the possibility of such extreme physical, physiological, and psychological change has failed to abate in modern times and actually has seen tremendous resurgence in the last several decades. Many researchers (Durante, 2006; Schablotski, 2006) have pointed to lunar evidence, but lingering questions remain regarding whether environmental factors or social pressures are the key trigger.

Literature Review

The prevalence of transformation narratives exists not only in the entertainment realm of movies and science or young adult fiction but also among firsthand accounts in-

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person and across social media from individuals claiming to have experienced such transformation incidents.

The Werewolf

Of all the creatures that appear in the stories of these individuals, it is the wolf that has most dominated their narratives. As a result, lycanthropy and its related conditions have evolved as a legitimate topic for physiological research. Much like the work in South America done by sociologists Sabato, de Melo, Magni, Young, and Coelho (2006), recent research has focused on the use of narrative self-reports as data.

By considering factors that impact the psychological states of these individuals both before and after their narrative reports, psychologists seek to deepen the current understanding of linkages between the mind-body connections to the lunar cycle. What is less commonly addressed, however, are any social, psychosocial, or even

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References

Carter, K. E. (2005). Werewolves, witches, and wandering spirits: Traditional belief and folklore in early modern Europe. *Catholic Historical Review*, 91, 523-525.

Du Coudray, C. B. (2002). Upright citizens on all fours: Nineteenth-century identity and the image of the werewolf. *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, 24(1), 1-16. Retrieved from <http://www3.nd.edu/~ncc/index.htm>

Durante, C. (2006). On the existence of werewolves. *Philosophy Now*, 57(1), 22-24.

Sábato, M., de Melo, L., Magni, E., Young, R., & Coelho, C. (2006). A note on the effect of the full moon on the activity of wild maned wolves, *Chrysocyon brachyurus*. *Behavioural Processes*, 73(2), 228-230. doi:10.1016/j.beproc.2006.05.012

Summers, M. (2003). *The werewolf in lore and legend*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc.

Always defer to instructor or publication requirements when formatting your document.

For formatting issues not covered on this handout, consult the most recent edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and visit the KSU Writing