

## Introduction to APA Formatting for Application Writing Samples

### Creating a Writing Sample from Scratch

If you don't have an existing writing sample, then you are free to create a new one. Start by picking any specific topic of interest to you. Some examples of previously submitted topics include: "How can painting workshops reduce stress for patients in the hospital?" or "How do dance classes impact the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease?"

You would then do some basic research on your topic for a simple 2-3 page essay (double-spaced) in APA format. Use formal language and well organized paragraphs in support of your research question. You can use the [arts in medicine research database](#), <https://scholar.google.com/>, or a library journal database to research your topic. Find about 4-6 scholarly sources to help form your conclusions.

### Notes on APA format

Whenever you state, paraphrase, or quote something that isn't your own original idea, make sure to use an [in-text citation](#) crediting the author by last name and year published (Reina, 2019). For your [references section](#) at the end of your paper, list your references in alphabetical order by last name of the primary author of each source. **No need to make a title page or abstract** for the purpose of this application writing sample. See the links below for APA examples and rules.

### Helpful Links for APA Formatting

Please see the Purdue OWL Guide on APA here:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)

Please see a sample APA paper here:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/apa\\_sample\\_paper.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html)

Please see rules on reference lists:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/reference\\_list\\_basic\\_rules.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html)

Please see rules on in-text citations:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/in\\_text\\_citations\\_the\\_basics.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/in_text_citations_the_basics.html)

### Academic Writing in our Graduate Program

Should you become a student in our program, at the beginning of each class, make sure to look at the syllabus and see how much time you'll have to write major assignments. Even the discussion boards in our program, which are due weekly, may require academic writing standards and citations. Please be sure you can set aside enough time before and during the program to strengthen your writing skills.

Consider this sample an exercise in academic writing—which is a skill you'll need to use often in our program. Graduate-level writing skills are fundamental to supporting your future arts in health practice. You'll use these skills in many ways, such as in grant-writing, program proposals, research, and evaluations.

### Final Thoughts

Writing a well-organized sample with APA citations is great practice and will make your application stronger. Even if you don't use APA correctly yet, the most important thing is that the essay is coherent and that you double-check your grammar and punctuation. There are online resources like [www.grammarly.com](http://www.grammarly.com) for free for help with proofreading (not an endorsement). Should you want additional practice, online courses through providers like Lynda, Coursera, or others may be helpful. Check your local library or community college as they may be able to point you toward academic writing tutors and courses as well. If you'd like feedback on a draft, please send a copy to [camadmissions@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:camadmissions@arts.ufl.edu). Good luck and go gators!