

Grading Codes for APA Research Paper

Part One – Title Page

- 1a. Title page meets APA standards
- 1b. Title page is incorrect or missing. (See Owl Purdue page).

Part Two – Abstract

- 2a. Abstract page meets APA standards.
- 2b. Abstract page is incorrect or missing. (See Owl Purdue page).

Part Three – Main Body

Introduction / Thesis Statement

- 3a. Introduction is excellent; context is provided, it is focused on the question, and your thesis is clear and concise.
- 3b. Quotations and anecdotes in the introduction are appropriate and relevant to the subject.
- 3c. Your choice of epigraph is appropriate and grabs the reader's attention.
- 3d. Introduction needs improvement; initial discussion does not include a thesis.
- 3e. Thesis is not clear and / or does not promote a unifying idea or structure.
- 3f. Introduction is missing or shows complete avoidance of the question.
- 3g. Introduction has too many spelling errors and mistakes in grammar.

Body

- 4a. Paragraphs within the body show ample data, proof, and evidence such as statistics and authoritative research.
- 4b. Formatting and paragraphs exhibit proper mix of direct quotes and paraphrasing with good transitions between paragraphs.
- 4c. Essay has lots of original research.
- 4d. In-text citations are missing and / or not properly positioned or incorrectly constructed (See Owl Purdue page).
- 4e. Transitions between paragraphs need improvement; do not start paragraphs with quotations.
- 4f. Not enough data; more needed for support of your argument.
- 4g. Too many direct quotes, not enough of your own analysis.
- 4h. Block quotes are excessive and / or improperly formatted.
- 4i. Body is randomly constructed and not internally consistent.
- 4j. Read body paragraphs OUT LOUD to yourself to improve grammar.
- 4k. De-gender your data references (research) whenever possible.

Conclusion

- 5a. Conclusion is well-organized, thoughtful, and has a unifying idea or theme.
- 5b. Conclusion shows a creative or unique synthesis of a complicated topic.
- 5c. Conclusion is not sufficient and does not properly summarize your thesis.
- 5d. Conclusion is missing! This is totally unacceptable on a research paper.

Part Four – Reference Page

- 6a. Reference page meets APA standards.
- 6b. Reference page is incorrect or missing (See Owl Purdue page).
- 6c. Always include at least 2 – 3 books in a research paper.

Overall Research Paper

- 7a. Paper is superb in just about every respect; university-level work.
- 7b. Paper is pretty solid, and possible improvements are noted above.
- 7c. Paper does not meet the required length for an "A" grade.
- 7d. Paper is below what is expected in a college student; continue to work on your writing skills; consider extra writing classes.