

## Different Approaches to Teaching the Mechanics of American Psychological Association Style

Students have to learn two distinctly different tasks when writing research papers: a) creating and organizing prose, and b) formatting a manuscript according to the nuances and mechanics of a pre-determined format, such as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines. Two studies examined different approaches for teaching the details of APA style, including: a template, a checklist, and a combined approach that used both the template and checklist. The results demonstrated that while each technique individually helped students to learn APA style, using both together appeared to provide the most help to students.

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