APA FORMAT FOR
PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

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BASIC INFORMATION ON APA

Margins: 1” on all sides

Line Spacing: Double space entire document, including block quotes (40 words or more)

Punctuation: Two spaces after punctuation is suggested except when referencing material

Voice: Use third person only

Edition: Use the APA Manual, 6th edition. Other sources, especially online sources, may or may not be correct.
WHEN SHOULD I CITE?

Whenever the information, concept, or words are not your own or when the statement is not common knowledge. Remember, even if you change the words, the information is still not your own, so you DO need to cite.
According to Anderson and Barker (2013), “the majority of college graduates who major in psychology begin a graduate program in the same field of study within five years” (p. 14).
“The majority of college graduates who major in psychology begin a graduate program in the same field of study within five years” (Anderson & Barker, 2013, p. 14).
Although psychology graduates frequently attend graduate school, many work at entry level positions in a counseling setting while pursuing their academic degrees (Anderson & Barker, 2013).
It is critical for psychology majors to acquire specific instruction in communication skills in order to successfully work with clients in any type of professional setting (Ames, 2012; Carter & James, 2011; Davis, Longman, & Richards, 2013; McNally, Martin, Carney, Fallon, & O’Hara, 2015; Thomas et al., 2014).

*Note: These authors are listed in alphabetical order by the first letter of the last name (e.g., A/Ames; C/Carter; D/Davis, etc.)
As Jones and Taylor (2014) indicated in their recent study:

Counselors in all settings need to possess not only a working knowledge of the subtleties of spoken language, but they need to become adept at interpreting body language in order to garner important information about their clients during counseling sessions. (para. 4)
Close to 90% of psychology graduates become employed in their area of specialty before they even graduate (“Psychology in Practice,” 2014).
Young adolescents who succumb to peer pressure and are consistently unable to control their impulses, sometimes develop a serious impulse disorder such as gambling or kleptomania ("Will Your Child," n.d.).
According to a study conducted by Ferrentino (as cited in Lorenzo, 2015), psychology graduates who have gained professional experience in the area of alcoholism are prime candidates for earning certification as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor.

* Note: You refer to the author of the study that you wish to discuss (Ferrentino), but you cite the study that you actually read (Lorenzo, 2015). In your references section, you would list Lorenzo (NOT Ferrentino).
WHAT DO I INCLUDE IN REFERENCES?

Only the works cited in the paper are included in the references section.

The importance of communication skills in counseling. Retrieved from http://www.psy.couns/communication
Will your child become a kleptomaniac?

FREQUENTLY RESEARCHED TOPICS WITH PAGE NUMBERS

- Initial and subsequent sample citations  p. 177
- Rules regarding citations  pp. 169-192
- Rules for references page  pp. 193-224
- Levels of headings  pp. 62-63
- Rules about numbers + exceptions  pp. 111-114
- Sample APA paper  pp.41-49