APA Research Paper Guidelines & Rubric

Guidelines
American Psychological Association (APA) style is an academic format used largely but not exclusively in the social and behavioral sciences for improved clarity of communication. The Online Writing Lab (OWL) of Purdue University (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/) is a good source of information on APA style. And NoodleTools Express (http://www.noodletools.com/login.php) is a useful bibliographic citation generator that includes APA style for preparing literature cited lists and parenthetical citations.

APA Research Paper Template (available from your instructor's blog)
This template contains the basic elements and formatting of an APA research paper and may be used to prepare your own research paper. Instructions are included in the template.

APA Research Paper Example (available from your instructor's blog or online)
This example APA research paper ("Apes and Language" by Karen Shaw) contains all the elements and formatting typical of APA research papers as well as marginal notes to explain various elements.

APA Research Paper Rubric (included in this document)
This rubric (see the following page) is a guide for how to successfully complete an APA research paper at the highest level of completion and success.

Part 2. Rubric for an APA Research Paper

Presentation: Length, Content, Organization, etc.	Level of Proficiency			
Criteria	**Exemplary**	**Accomplished**	**Developing**	**Beginning**
APA Format	___ Entire paper is double-spaced with 1" margins ___ 12 pt font, New Times Roman ___ Correct running head (header) with pagination ___ Title, name, school name centered and double-spaced (please also include course number and title, date and instructor's name) ___ Length sufficient to properly develop written communication with respect to the main idea, subtopics, etc. (ca. 8-10 or perhaps a few more pages)	___ Adheres to APA format but lacks 1-2 elements	___ Adheres to a smaller number APA elements	___ Does not adhere APA elements
Assignment Submission	___ Paper is submitted in electronic format (MS Word) ___ Electronic file has correct file name protocol	___ Paper is submitted in electronic format (MS Word) only	___ Paper is submitted in incorrect electronic format only	___ Paper is neither submitted in correct electronic format or with correct file name
Abstract	___ Provides complete overview of paper (75-100, or up to 150-200 words) ___ Block style with no paragraphs, text flush left	___ Provides incomplete overview of paper (and significantly less or more than 150-200 words) ___ Incorrect style	___ Abstract present but incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ No abstract
Introduction	___ Approximately one paragraph, addressing the topic and a main idea ___ Includes thesis statement	___ Of variable length, identifying a topic ___ Includes thesis statement that may not comprise a topic and an assertion	___ Introduction present but incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ No introduction
Body	___ Generally of three elements (of from one to several paragraphs each) ___ Each element supports and develops the main idea (subpoints) ___ Each paragraph contains a clear topic sentence (and also logically leads to the next paragraph)	___ Less than three elements (of from one to several paragraphs each) ___ Not all elements support and develop the main idea ___ Not all paragraphs contain a clear topic sentence (and also logically leads to the next paragraph)	___ Body present but significantly incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ No body

Conclusion	___ Typically one paragraph (or may be more) ___ Summarizes the body and concludes the paper ___ Contains restatement of the main idea (or thesis statement), summarize subpoints and leaves the reader with an interesting final impression	___ Less than one paragraph ___ Summarizes the body incompletely with weak conclusion ___ Contains less than the following: restatement of the main idea (or thesis statement), summarize subpoints and leaves the reader with an interesting final impression	___ Conclusion present but significantly incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ No conclusion
Other Considerations	___ Contains factual support for the purpose ___ Avoids ambiguity in discussion of methods, results or interpretations ___ Is clear and concise ___ Is developed logically ___ Main points are emphasized and auxiliary or background information is kept in proper perspective	___ Relatively complete but does not address all points indicated in the presentation guidelines	___ Incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ Fully lacking in all aspects
Attribution	___ All sources properly attributed, no plagiarism, paraphrasing and direct quotes where appropriate	___ Sources properly attributed, no plagiarism	___ Attribution present but significantly incomplete, papers contains plagiarism	___ No attribution
References & Citations	___ References on separate titled page (centered) ___ In correct APA format (all information included and appropriate for type of source) ___ Listed alphabetically ___ Hanging indent ___ Minimum of four credible, accurate and appropriate sources ___ Each source is cited at least once and all cited sources are included in references ___ All citations complete and correctly applied	___ References on separate titled page (centered) ___ Not all in correct APA format (all information included and appropriate for type of source) ___ Less than the following (listed alphabetically; hanging indent; minimum of four credible, accurate and appropriate sources; each source is cited at least once and all cited sources are included in references, citations complete and correct)	___ References present but significantly incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ No references
Style	___ Academically appropriate (formal without being "wordy" or involving affectation (unnatural or artificial expression meant simply to impress)	___ Generally academically appropriate as described	___ Minimally academically appropriate as described	___ Not academically appropriate

	___ Free of slang, contractions, personal pronouns, "you" ___ Variety of sentence structures ___ Fluency of expression in writing			
Writing Mechanics (standard grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage)	___ Assignment is at least checked using word processing spelling and grammar tools ___ Assignment is also checked visually for errors not detected electronically ___ Syntax, grammar, spelling, punctuation, usage, mechanics, organization, and clarity are at the highest level	___ Assignment is at least checked using word processing spelling and grammar tools ___ Few to several issues with writing mechanics	___ Assignment shows evidence of minimal review for spelling and grammar errors ___ Multiple issues with writing mechanics	___ Multiple issues with writing mechanics and no evidence of review

Editorial Review	Level of Proficiency			
Preparation & Revision	___ Paper submitted for editorial review with all necessary revisions completed prior to presentation	___ Most elements of editorial review addressed	___ Few elements of editorial review addressed	___ No editorial review

Subject: Problem, Research Design & Conduct, Student Involvement in Planning & Execution	Level of Proficiency			
Criteria	**Exemplary**	**Accomplished**	**Developing**	**Beginning**
Problem or Question	___ Value of information to scientific and Native American communities in broadest sense ___ Objectives present and relatively complete	___ Value of information to many members of the scientific and Native American communities ___ Objectives present and relatively complete	___ Value of information to limited members of the scientific and Native American communities ___ Objectives present but incomplete, unclear or otherwise minimally acceptable	___ No value of information to the scientific or Native American communities ___ No clear objectives
Research Design & Conduct	___ All answers presented clearly relate to objectives and the research	___ Some answers presented clearly relate to objectives and the research	___ Answers presented not clearly related to objectives or obtained by the research ___ Research techniques minimally adequate	___ No answers to questions raised by the objectives as research was conducted ___ Research techniques not adequate
Student Involvement	___ Student involvement in all aspects where reasonable or possible	___ Student involvement in some aspects	___ Student involvement minimal	___ No student involvement in planning and execution of the research project