What is APA Formatting and why learn about it?

APA stands for American Psychological Association and APA formatting is their approved method for writing research papers.

The idea behind this type of formatting is that regardless of culture or language all research papers will be written in the same style, with the same parts, in the same order. This helps ensure that all research can be read and understood, it also helps ensure that all readers are able to determine where the information came from.

APA formatting is also one of the most widely used forms of formatting, so as you continue your education and career it is likely that you will come across this type of paper formatting again and again.

Parts of an APA formatted paper:

**Title Page** - This is the first page of your paper and contains information about your paper and you

**Abstract** - Your instructor will decide if you need this page or not, but if you do it contains a paragraph briefly describing your paper.

**Main Body** - These are the pages that make up the majority of your paper. Here you describe what information you found or studied, as well as your interpretation of it.

**Reference Page** - The final page of your paper, here you give a list of sources where you found the information you used in the main body of your paper.

The Basics:

Your APA formatted paper has a few basics you should be aware of before you even start typing

- You need to have 1” margins on all sides
- Your paper will need to be printed on 8.5” x 11” white paper with black ink
- Your font will need to be Times New Roman 12 point
- The whole paper should be double spaced

Time to start:

Keeping these basic guidelines in mind, you’re ready to start working on your research paper. If you’re not sure how to properly format part of your paper, give it your best shot. It is easier to make corrections later then to try and remember where certain parts or citations go.