



# **APA Formatting: Promoting Integrity and Structure**

By Drs. Amy Preiss and Pam Gordon

University of Phoenix

## Abstract

This whitepaper explores the need for faculty and students to master the use of the American 3 V\FKRORJLFDO \$VVRFLDWLRQ¶V VWDQG DUGV IRU IRU students, online doctoral students, and instructors, alongside the fallout in terms of outcomes related to higher-than-average plagiarism numbers, faulty feedback and more. Suggestions are offered as well by the authors for those teaching APA style to help offset negative outcomes and allow for more engaged adoption of such standards of practice.

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## **Introduction**

An important aspect of enculturation for student researchers and writers is learning to write in a common scientific style (Mages & Garson, 2010). When students adhere to a common



number of publications, each with variations of the basic APA style, exacerbates this difficulty.

Ware and Mabe (2015) noted the growing number

overwhelming and were unwilling to devote more than 10 or 15 minutes to





number of doctoral students graduate without sufficient APA knowledge making the transition

educating students on citing and referencing sources and following style guidelines reduces plagiarism levels.

Citation rules are complex. To prevent academic dishonesty and promote scholarship, faculty should treat citing and referencing sources as a collection of skills by stressing the importance of using correct APA style, encouraging continued learning, providing consistent and correct feedback, and promoting an APA culture.

### **Recommendations for Teaching APA Style**

There is vast literature on approaches for effectively teaching and evaluating APA Style (Daniel & Onwuegbuzie, 2007; Jorgensen & Marek, 2013; Mages & Garson 2010;

channel on YouTube such as **Starting Papers in Academic Writing: Webinar Recording** (APA Publishing Training, 2019) or the webinar titled **: K D Weir in APA Style<sup>2</sup> Inside the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association** (Kamin et al., 2019).

Faculty could include a course assignment instructing students to review several journal articles and critique the **D X W KAPA** formatting; noting corrections where necessary. Faculty could also have students review certain sections of the APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition



### **About the Authors**

Dr. Pamela Ann Gordon earned her Ph.D. in Business Administration with a specialization in Management



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