

APA Style Introductory Guide

Psychology Department

LA SIERRA
UNIVERSITY

2003-2004 Edition

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (commonly known as the *APA Manual*) presents the official style used in Psychology and most other social sciences (with the exception of Sociology), Social Work, education, and nursing. It is very similar to many of the styles used in the natural sciences, as well.

The full version of the *APA Manual* is extremely thorough, and covers nearly every possible detail in writing theoretical and empirical articles. People planning careers in Psychology, who expect to be writing Senior Theses, Master's Theses, or Dissertations, will all need to use the manual extensively. The manual is a required text for Methods of Research (PSYC 349), and the full version of APA Style is used for PSYC 349, 374, 401A, 401B, 435, 454, 456, 475, 478, 484, and UNST 404. This introductory guide is for other Psychology courses. The complete *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* is available in the reference section of the Library: Ref. BF76.7.P83 2001.

In this guide, sample pages are shown on the left, with notations on the right explaining the elements of APA style. The sample pages are based on a real article, but have been significantly edited to demonstrate APA style.

Title Page

The first two or three words of the title are placed in the header for every page.

Page numbering begins on the first page.

Controllability, Anger, Judgments 1

Running Head: ATTRIBUTIONS AND CIVIL UNREST

The words “Running Head:” are put at the top of the page, followed by a shorter version of your title (in all caps, no more than 50 characters long).

Note: Use a 12-point font throughout. Use a common, easy-to-read font, such as Times Roman.

Controllability, Anger, Judgments and Valence

of Attributions for Civil Unrest

Paul Mallery

La Sierra University

Title of the paper, in upper- and lower-case letters, centered on the page.

Author

Institutional affiliation: Where you are a student.

Notice that everything throughout the entire paper is double-spaced.

Abstract

Controllability, Anger, Judgments 2

Abstract

Examined the attributional patterns of Blacks and Whites during a situation of civil unrest with the hypothesis that attributional patterns will favor their respective in-groups. Questionnaires were distributed to the 72 students (at the University of California, Los Angeles) on the day after the "not guilty" verdict was returned for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers accused of beating Rodney King. There was no difference in attributions of controllability between the Black and the White participants regarding the Black protesters and the police. There were, however, differences in the valence of those attributions. In addition to the differences in the attributions themselves, the Black and the White participants differed in affect toward the Black protesters and toward the LAPD.

If your paper has an abstract, it should be on page two and the body begin on page three. If your paper has no abstract, the body of the paper should begin on page two.

Center the word "Abstract" at the top of the page (under the header).

In the abstract, write numbers out (as digits) except those beginning a sentence.

Note: The abstract should be no longer than 120 words.

Body of the Paper

Controllability, Anger, Judgments 3

Controllability, Anger, Judgments and Valence

of Attributions for Civil Unrest

Attribution theory (Weiner, 1985, 1986, 1995) has been used to explore a variety of domains, such as prosocial and antisocial behavior (Betancourt & Blair, 1992; Betancourt & Weiner, 1982; Mallery & Betancourt, 1992) and parole decisions (Weiner, 1986). Betancourt and Blair (1992) report that if a perceiver sees a behavior as controllable and having negative valence, an emotional response of anger rather than pity is likely to be elicited, possibly leading to antisocial behavior. Additional research examining intergroup attributions (e.g., Ben-Ari, Schwarzwald, & Horiner-Levi, 1994; Finchilescu, 1994) suggests that individuals make attributions that favor their ingroup. This leads to the expectation that in situations of civil unrest in the United States, attributional patterns of Blacks and Whites will favor their ingroups (Adams, as cited in Barnes, 1998). Carson argues that Social Dominance Orientation is a key component of this process (personal communication, November 18, 1992), but "Carson seems to believe that Social Dominance Orientation is a part of many processes" (Davis, 1995, p. 232).

On March 3, 1991, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers beat and arrested Rodney King, an African American. The beating was recorded on video by a nearby resident, and was aired on television. The LAPD officers were prosecuted, and on April 29, 1992, the predominantly White jury returned a not guilty vote. Civil unrest erupted in Los Angeles.

Method

Questionnaires were distributed on April 30 to 72 students (48 White and 24 Black) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Forty-two participants were approached on campus, and 30 were members of an upper division social psychology methodology course. Data

1"

1"

- The first two or three words of the title are placed in the header for every page.
- If there is an abstract, the body of the paper begins on page three. If there is no abstract, the body of the paper begins on page two.
- The same title that was in the middle of the title page goes above the body of the paper.
- Indent paragraphs five to seven spaces.
- When citing others' ideas but not using their exact wording, the author(s) and year(s) may be included in parentheses. If there are more than two but less than six authors, then all of the authors' names are listed the first time the work is cited, but only the first author is cited followed by the words "et al." after that. If there are more than six authors, then only the first authors' name is cited followed by the words "et al." every time.
- You may also include the author's name(s) in the sentence with the year in parentheses.
- The body of the paper is flush left, so the right margin is ragged (not justified).
- In cases where an idea is cited from an article that was not read, but that was cited in another article that was read, use this "as cited in" format. In APA style, things are only cited when they have been read.
- If you are quoting or citing someone who told you something (for example, verbally or in an email) but that was not published, use the "personal communication" format where the person's name is cited (either in parentheses or in the text), and in parentheses are the words "personal communication," followed by the date of the communication.
- Quotations up to 40 words long are enclosed in quotation marks, and the citation includes the author(s), year, and page number where the original quote is located.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides (left, right, top, and bottom).

Body of the Paper (continued)

Controllability, Anger, Judgments 4

were collected during the midst of the unrest; a curfew was called later that day. Questions dealt with opinions about attributions for the unrest present in the media at the time (using a 1-5 scale), and perceived controllability, emotions, and judgments towards Blacks and the LAPD (using a 1-7 scale).

Results

Attribution Valence

Although there was no difference in attributions of controllability between the Black and White participants towards Blacks ($M = 4.63$ versus $M = 4.30$, $F(1,69) = .71$, $p = .40$) and the police ($M = 4.33$ versus $M = 3.52$, $F(1,70) = 3.67$, $p = .059$), there were clear differences in the valence of those attributions. Results were surprisingly identical to those previously found:

ANOVA suggest that Blacks were, more likely than Whites to agree with the statements that the "riots and vandalism were largely caused by protests over the jury decision" ($M = 4.17$ versus $M = 3.23$, $F(1,70) = 8.08$, $p = .008$), "Blacks may need to resort to violence in order to improve their situation" ($M = 3.39$ versus $M = 1.83$, $F(1,69) = 25.50$, $p < .001$), and "Sometimes people have to take to the street when the system fails" ($M = 3.92$ versus $M = 2.79$, $F(1,70) = 12.69$, $p = .001$; see Murty, Roebuck, & Armstrong, 1994, for parallel data). Whites, on the other hand, were more likely than Blacks to support the statements that the "riots" were "largely caused by people taking advantage of the situation" ($M = 3.96$ versus $M = 3.25$, $F(1,70) = 8.21$, $p = .005$), and that "The Police Department has done the best possible job in keeping the emergency situation under control" ($M = 2.67$ versus $M = 1.46$, $F(1,70) = 22.52$, $p < .001$). (Mallery, 2000, p. 394)

If your paper is divided into sections, center the title above the beginning of each section.

If a section is divided into subsections, put the title of the subsection to the left and italicized.

If quoting more than 40 words, instead of using quotation marks, indent the quotation. Note that it is rare in an undergraduate paper when it is necessary or appropriate to quote more than 40 words.

Place the citation including page number at the end of the block quotation.

References

Controllability, Anger, Judgments 6

References

Barnes, C. D. (1983). Revising the Watts Riots. In E. F. Gunferschnauer (Ed.), *Revisiting our Past* (pp. 893-982). New York: Big Time Press.

Ben-Ari, R., Schwarzwald, J., & Horiner-Levi, E. (1994). The effects of prevalent social stereotypes on intergroup attributions. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, 25*, 489-500.

Betancourt, H., & Blair, I. (1992). A cognition (attribution)-emotion model of violence in conflict situations. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 18*, 343-350.

Betancourt, H., & Weiner, B. (1982). Attributions for achievement-related events, expectancy, and sentiments: A study of success and failure in Chile and the United States. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, 13*, 362-374.

Davis, E. F. (1995). A Bigger Role for Social Dominance. *Journal of Really Big Findings, 28*, 213-265. Retrieved January 7, 2002, from PsycINFO database.

Finchilescu, G. (1994). Intergroup attributions in minimal groups. *Journal of Social Psychology, 134*, 111-118. Abstract retrieved February 14, 2001 from PsycINFO database.

Mallery, P., & Betancourt, H. (1992). *Developmental aspects of an attribution-empathy model of helping behavior*. Retrieved March 21, 2000 from La Sierra University Department of Psychology Web site: <http://www.lasierra.edu/psychology/helping.htm>

Murty, K. S., Roebuck, J. B., & Armstrong, G. R. (n.d.). The Black community's reactions to the 1992 Los Angeles riot. Retrieved April 28, 1999 from <http://www.geocities.com/research/murty/riot/report.html>

Weiner, B. (1986). *An attributional analysis of motivation and emotion*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

References start on a new page, with the word "References" (or "Reference" if there is only one) centered at the top of the page. Every source that is cited in the paper should be included here, and no sources should be included here that aren't cited in the body of the paper.

Note that the references are alphabetized, and the first line of each source should hang out about five spaces to the left of subsequent lines.

Samples of different kinds of reference formats shown here include:

Chapters written by particular author(s) in a book edited by other(s) include the page numbers of the chapter.

Journal articles list the article title, journal name, volume number and page numbers.

Articles from electronic databases (like PsycINFO through the library) include the date retrieved and the database used.

If just the abstract was read from an online database (instead of the entire article), use this format.

Web pages in University or other institutional web pages use this format.

If no publication date is available for a source, list use "n.d." (for "no date") whenever the year would usually be included.

Web pages that are not affiliated with an institution use this format.

Books use this format.