

Sample Essay: An Example to Follow

Student's Name

Liberty University

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Repeat your title at the beginning of your essay. Place a one half inch indent (one tab) at the beginning of each new paragraph. American Psychological Association (APA) format is double spaced lines, one-inch margins, and two spaces between each sentence. This section serves as a short introduction to your essay. Describe your topic and tell how your essay will treat it.

Heading (a short title for your paragraph)

Discuss a main point here. Be clear and concise. When you use a quote of under 40 words put it in quotation marks. Ridener and Fritzer (2004) state “something that relates to your essay” (p. 12). If you paraphrase (put in your own words) something that an author said indicate that at the end of the paraphrase. Math is super fun for kids (Ridener & Fritzer, 2004). If your quote is more than 40 words, you indent. Ridener and Fritzer state:

This quote is more than forty words. Notice how I did not include the year following Ridener and Fritzer. If you have previously quoted the authors in a paragraph your only need to state there names the second time. If it is the first time you are quoting them in a paragraph include the year. (p. 22)

Remember that a paragraph consists of at least two sentences.

Something Else I Wanted to Say

When you are writing in APA, you usually write in the third person when referring to your thoughts. For example, this author thinks it would be wise to purchase the *Concise Rules of APA*. For the essays that ask for autobiographic information, you may write in the first person.

For example, I once failed a college math course, but kept trying and passed it the next time.

When you have finished presenting your ideas, you will need to write a conclusion.

Conclusion

Restate the main points you covered and any concluding thoughts you may have.

Remember to keep the essay between 250 and 350 words. I will deduct 5 points for every 50 words in excess of 350. Your references should be put on a separate page. They are double-spaced, in alphabetical order, and have a hanging indent of ½ inch. I have included an example.

References

Ridener, B. & Fritzer, P. (2004). *Mathematics content for elementary and middle school teachers*. Boston, MA: Pearson.