Paper Title Here

Student Name

school

Class title

Professor’s name

Date You Submit The Paper (written out formally)

Abstract

The abstract starts here and unlike paragraphs in the body of the paper, the first sentence is not indented. The abstract should be under 250 words and is in a single paragraph. The word “Abstract” is not in bold, as it is not a part of the body of the paper.

Paper Title Goes Here-not in Bold Font

**Introduction**

This is the first major section of the paper, so it has a centered, bold, APA Level 1 heading. The introduction should be one page or less and include 2 or 3 paragraphs. It includes a prevalence statement, purpose, research question (RQ), and thesis statement. You can choose to order them in a way that flows and you might mention the theoretical lens (or wait until the start of the next section; the sample I hand out in class is just one way to do it). The second or last paragraph can include key definitions if needed and generally ends with telling the reader what the remainder of the paper includes in the order of the sections of the paper (review of key literature, recommendations for future research, etc.). To make sure you do this and all sections correctly, re-read the paper instructions, look at my key slides and any relevant handouts.

**Literature Review**

The literature review is the second major and longest section of the paper and is its heart.You will likely have two introductory paragraphs to (before you get to themes subsections) you will remind the reader of the focus or purpose of your paper, mention you will explain your theoretical lens and how it relates to your RQ or topic, and identify your themes (and describe them- what you mean by them - very briefly without getting into the research findings on them).

**Theoretical Perspective**

This is the first subsection of the literature review, so the heading is an APA Level 2 one. In this section you will have a paragraph or two that describes your selected theory and key concepts without directly relating it to your topic.

Then you will start a new paragraph (or two) that clearly explains how that theory relates to your topic and helps you to think about the related research and scholarly thinking about it.

In either that same paragraph or in a new one (depends on your preference and/or how you approach the writing of t the above), discuss how the theory relates to your thesis statement; in other words, explain your thesis statement and the research that supports it while integrating in the ways your selected theory relates to and explains the research that backs up your thesis statement. The last sentence of the last paragraph of this section should have a transition sentence to set up the first theme.

**Heading of Theme 1**

Here you will have several paragraphs that discuss the research studies and provide your analysis of the research on your first theme.Early in the first paragraph, you will present your “theme thesis statement” for the theme, meaning your argument about what the research on the theme tells us.

Then you will present the three (or four, if you have one) studies you read that are relevant to this theme. The discussion of each study will be one paragraph in length. You will provide the purpose, participants, design, method, results and interpretation of each study.

The last paragraph of each theme is a concluding paragraph in which you summarize across the three (or more) studies, restate your“theme thesis statement” in a new way, and explain it from the view of your theoretical lens; discuss how the theory helps to explain the research on the theme. Also, in the concluding paragraph (or in another paragraph, note limitations and strengths of studies on it and any gaps in knowledge about the theme/ what we still do not know). At the end of this section, be sure to have a transition phrase or sentence that leads into theme 2.

**Heading for Theme 2**

Follow the above for your second theme, and be sure to create a transition phrase or sentence at the end to introduce the third theme.

**Heading for Theme 3**

You will do the same for this theme, as you did for above. However, as you end this subsection of the literature review, you should have a short paragraph or couple sentences that summarize across the three themes. That should befollowed by a transition phrase or sentence that introduces the next major section of the paper, which is **Future Research** (which is not a part of the Literature Review major section)

**Future Research**

This is the third major section of the paper, and has an APA Level 1 heading. It is typically 2 – 3 paragraphs in length, but that depends on the topic. In this section, you summarize the limitations of past research and gaps in knowledge (briefly – remember you are only summarizing the points you made about limitations/gaps in the three theme subsections). Then you will make specific recommendations for future research that include those that are methodological and those that are more conceptual.

**Conclusion**

This is the last major section of the paper. In the first paragraph, remind the reader of the RQ. Then summarize your major points in the Lit Review (summarize what you said in the theoretical lens and theme subsections) and Future Research in1 -2 paragraphs.

Then you will write 1-2 paragraphs on implications for practice and policy. Try to end with a strong statement, such as one that emphasizes the need to continue to do research on the topic.

NOTE – THE INFORMATON PROVIDED WITHIN EACH SECTION 0F THIS TEMPLATE MAY NOT BE COMPLETE – BE SURE TO RE-READ THE PAPER INSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE YOU ARE INCLUDING ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION IN EACH SECTION OF THE PAPER. AND, AS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, SOME STIDENTS’ TOPICS ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN OTHERS; THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE CORRECT WAY TO WRITE THE SECTIONS OF THE PAPER.

References

Your first reference citation goes here; the reference list starts on a new page since it is not a part of the body of the paper and is in alphabetical order according to the first author’s last name of each article. Remember, each citation starts flush left, and remaining lines are indented ½ inch as I did here, with no extra spacing between citations.