

Short Title (2–3 words) 1

Full Title

Should Summarize the Main Idea of the Paper in 10–12 Words

Author's Name

B.A. in Music Senior Project

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

_____ Semester, 20__

Abstract

The text of the abstract goes here. It should be a single paragraph in which the first line is not indented. The purpose of the abstract is to provide a brief and comprehensive summary of the study. It should be accurate (do not include information here that is not in the body of the manuscript), self-contained (spell-out abbreviations), concise (unlike the abstract you submitted for your proposal, this will be a maximum of 120 words), and specific (begin this section with the most important information and limit it to the four or five most important concepts, findings, or implications of the study). In keeping with the theme of concision, use digits for all numbers except when they begin a sentence.

Full Title

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Begin the introduction here. Retype your title and center it at the top of the introduction as indicated above. Notice that these paragraphs should have a normal (half-inch) indent. The main purpose of this section is to tell the reader why you performed the study. In other words, you have to inform the reader of the research question and indicate why it is important and how it is unique when compared to previous studies. It starts out broad and becomes more and more specific. For example, you might begin by defining any relevant terms, review the relevant literature (avoiding an exhaustive and historical review), and then clarify the connection between previous research and the present work. You might include any hypotheses and the rationale for them. The final paragraph usually contains a statement that clearly and explicitly states why the study was performed. Thus, this section should contain an absolute minimum of four paragraphs: the general introduction, the literature review, the connection of the present study to the literature, and the explicit statement of purpose.

Section Headings

A heading in boldface type introduces each new section. For more information about proper formatting, see the *APA Publication Manual* (American Psychological Association, 2010) and *Rules for Writers* (Hacker, 2009). Helpful advice on the process of researching and writing your Senior Project can be found in *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from Your First Ideas to Your Finished Paper* (Lipson, 2005) and *Dissertations and Theses from Start to Finish* (Cone and Foster, 2006). As always, you should be vigilant about upholding the standards of academic integrity throughout the writing process (Lipson, 2008).

References

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Cone, J. D., & Foster, S. L. (2006). *Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Hacker, D. (2009). *Rules for writers* (6th ed.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. Retrieved from <http://dianahacker.com/pdfs/Hacker-Mira-APA.pdf>
- Lipson, C. (2008). *Doing honest work in college: How to prepare citations, avoid plagiarism, and achieve real academic success* (2nd ed.). Chicago guides to writing, editing, and publishing. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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