# Psychology Writing Tips Sheet

| **AUDIENCE** | ● Researchers, teachers, fellow students  
| | ● Writing should be applicable to everyone, not just those in the Psychology field. |
| **PURPOSE** | ● Study people  
| | ● Share findings  
| | ● Thesis should answer questions concerning people and their interactions with the world around them. |
| **TONE/VOICE** | ● Concise  
| | ● Clear, informed, and scholarly  
| | ● Professional tone.  
| | ○ Students should write as though their work will be published. |
| **STRUCTURE** | ● 2 Main types of essays: empirical studies and literature reviews  
| | ● Research reports, lab reports, honors theses, position or reaction papers  
| | ● Length varies  
| | ● Each theory or concept should build on the previous one  
| | ● Proper spelling, grammar and punctuation  
| | ● Title Page  
| | ● Number of pages included on Title Page.  
| | ● Indent Paragraphs and displayed quotes one half inch.  
| | ● For research papers, include an “Abstract Page” that summarizes subject, research method, findings, and conclusions. This is on a separate page after title page.  
| | ● Broad, narrow, broad |
| **RESEARCH/SOURCES** | ● Experiments, surveys, questionnaires, case studies, and observations  
| | ● Secondary sources are generally unacceptable.  
| | ● Peer-reviewed journals only.  
| | ○ The more times an article has been cited the better. |
| **SOURCE INTEGRATION** | ● Introduce and analyze source material  
| | ● Block quotes are single-spaced  
| | ● Almost never directly quote  
| | ● Mostly paraphrasing and reflection  
| | ○ Quotes are only used for clarity. |
| **STYLE/CITATION** | ● APA format  
| | ● In-text citations: footnotes and endnotes  
| | ○ Use superscripts, not parentheses.  
| | ● Footnotes at the bottom of the page that references the source  
| | ● Endnotes on the last page (this does not replace the bibliography)  
| | ● Bibliography comes last, as a separate page. |
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