APA Format – The Main Body

Main Body
The exact format of this section may vary depending upon the type of paper being writing. For example, a lab report main body could include:

- **Introduction** (no heading)
  - Justifies the reasons for study/experiment
  - Introduces topic to the reader
  - Provides an overview of previous research on the topic
  - Identifies your own hypothesis
  - Describes the expected findings in experiment or study

- **Method**
  - Provides the procedures used in research study or experiment
  - Provides detailed information on the research design, participants, equipment, materials, variables, and actions taken by the participants (Provides enough information to allow other researchers to replicate experiment/study)
  - Includes subheadings (e.g. Participants, Materials, Design, Procedure)

- **Results**
  - Summarizes the data collected and statistical analyses performed
  - Reports the results without subjective interpretation

- **Discussion**
  - Interprets and explains results. Are the results what was predicted? If not, why?

Check with instructor for specific information to include in the main body of your APA paper.

**Note:** For help setting up the body, refer to the APA Publication Manual, pages 180 – 215.

Information is based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition*. Individual instructor’s specifications may vary, so check with your instructor before formatting and submitting your work.

**Still have questions? Come see us – SWC L401**