APA Sample Paper: Title Page

The title page has 1" margins and is double-spaced.

In the header, leave 5 spaces between the shortened title and the page number.

Personality and Birth Order: First-Borns and Later-Borns

Rosa Velasquez

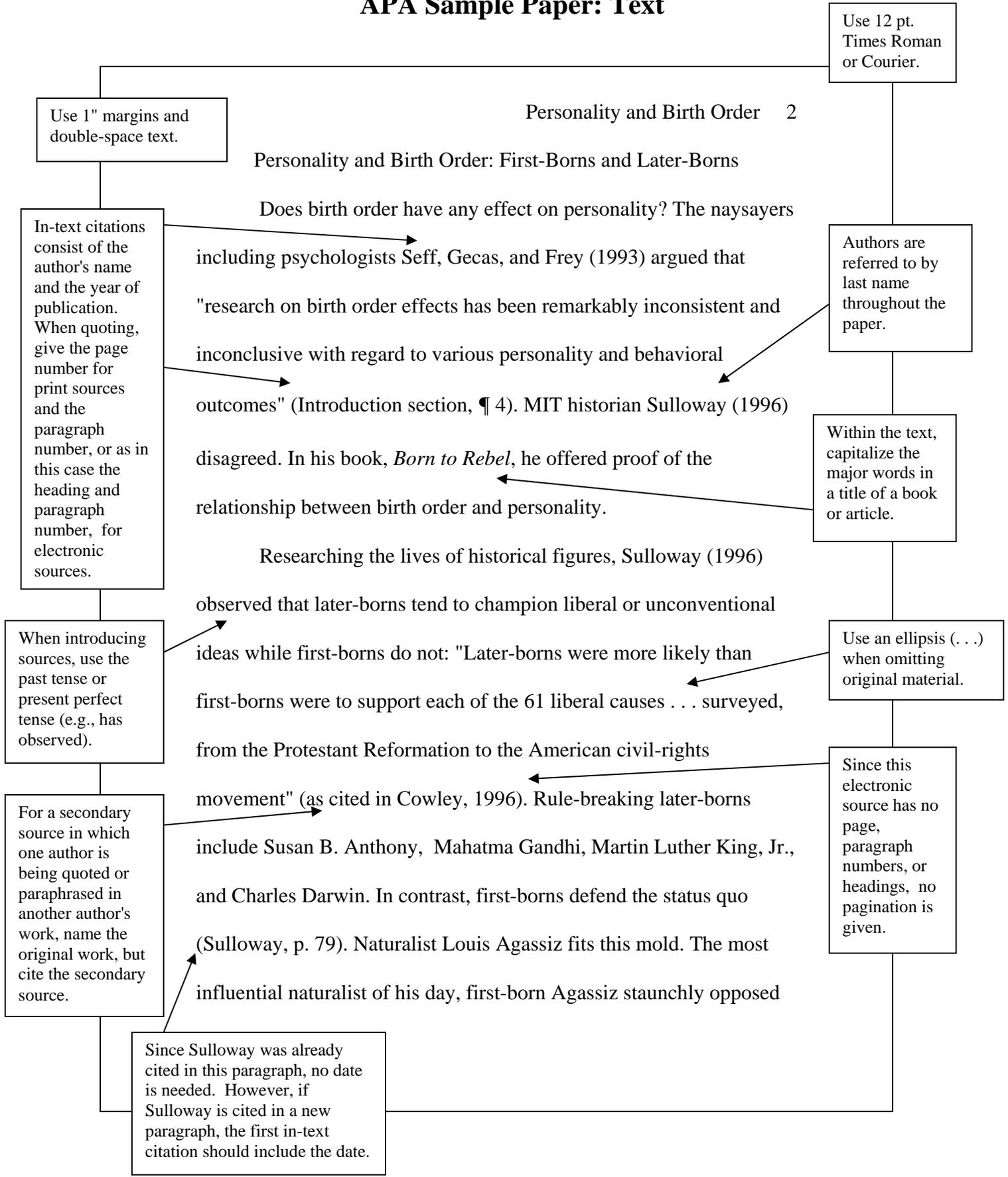Include your name, class, instructor, and date.

Psychology 1

Professor Nguyen

May 21, 2004

APA Sample Paper: Text

Use 12 pt. Times Roman or Courier.

Use 1" margins and double-space text.

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Personality and Birth Order: First-Borns and Later-Borns

Does birth order have any effect on personality? The naysayers

In-text citations consist of the author's name and the year of publication. When quoting, give the page number for print sources and the paragraph number, or as in this case the heading and paragraph number, for electronic sources.

including psychologists Seff, Gecas, and Frey (1993) argued that

"research on birth order effects has been remarkably inconsistent and

inconclusive with regard to various personality and behavioral

outcomes" (Introduction section, ¶ 4). MIT historian Sulloway (1996)

Authors are referred to by last name throughout the paper.

disagreed. In his book, *Born to Rebel*, he offered proof of the

relationship between birth order and personality.

Within the text, capitalize the major words in a title of a book or article.

Researching the lives of historical figures, Sulloway (1996)

When introducing sources, use the past tense or present perfect tense (e.g., has observed).

observed that later-borns tend to champion liberal or unconventional

ideas while first-borns do not: "Later-borns were more likely than

first-borns were to support each of the 61 liberal causes . . . surveyed,

Use an ellipsis (. . .) when omitting original material.

from the Protestant Reformation to the American civil-rights

For a secondary source in which one author is being quoted or paraphrased in another author's work, name the original work, but cite the secondary source.

movement" (as cited in Cowley, 1996). Rule-breaking later-borns

include Susan B. Anthony, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr.,

and Charles Darwin. In contrast, first-borns defend the status quo

(Sulloway, p. 79). Naturalist Louis Agassiz fits this mold. The most

Since this electronic source has no page, paragraph numbers, or headings, no pagination is given.

influential naturalist of his day, first-born Agassiz staunchly opposed

Since Sulloway was already cited in this paragraph, no date is needed. However, if Sulloway is cited in a new paragraph, the first in-text citation should include the date.

Personality and Birth Order   3

Darwin's radical notions about biological change:

> A quotation of 40 words or more starts on a new line and is indented 1/2" or 5 spaces.

> When Darwin proposed a revolutionary solution--that all
>
> nature's variety stems from a simple process that preserves
>
> useful variations and discards harmful ones--the authorities
>
> were appalled. "A scientific mistake" thundered Louis Agassiz,
>
> . . . "untrue in its facts . . . and mischievous in its tendency."

Quoted material within a block quotation are enclosed with double quotation marks.

(Cowley)

In a block quotation, end punctuation comes before the in-text citation.

APA Sample Paper: References

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References

Cowley, G. (1996, Oct. 7). First born, later born. *Newsweek, 128*.

Retrieved May 21, 2004, from Expanded Academic ASAP

database (Article A18722426).

Seff, M. A., Gecas, V., & Frey, J.H. (1993). Birth order, self concept,

and participation in dangerous sports. *The Journal of*

Psychology, 127. Retrieved May 23, 2004, from Expanded

Academic ASAP database (Article A14110698).

Sulloway, F. J. (1996). *Born to rebel*. New York: Pantheon.

Sources are listed in alphabetical order by author's last name. If there is no author, move the publication date after the title and alphabetize by the first major word in the title.

The reference list begins on a new page.

The entire reference list page is double-spaced and has one-inch margins.

The second line of each entry is indented 1/2" or 5 spaces.

In the reference list, capitalize only the first word in the title and subtitle of a book or article.

Additional Resources

For additional help with APA style documentation consult the following resources in the Writing Center.

> *A Writer's Reference*
>
> *Writing Center Handout: APA Style—Reference List/In-text*
>
> *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*

Purdue University's OWL is another excellent source of information on APA.

> http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html
>
> http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/index.html

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