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A dissertation presented to  
the Graduate Faculty of  
the University of Southern Indiana

In partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

Type First M. Last Name

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This dissertation titled

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by

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## Abstract

TYPE LAST NAME, FIRST M., Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, Select month of graduation Select year.

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Chair of Dissertation Committee: Type advisor’s First M. Last Name

A concise abstract of the dissertation should be written here. An abstract is required for all electronic publications. Spacing on this page matches the spacing in the body of the document (double-spaced). The first line of each new paragraph in this section should be indented consistently with other paragraphs in the body of the document.

## Dedication

*A simple, optional note dedicating the work to a single person or small group of persons.*

*The dedication is centered, italicized, and typically no more than 3-4 lines.*

## Acknowledgments

The acknowledgments page is optional. This page includes a brief, sincere, and professional acknowledgment of the assistance received from individuals and/or institutions.

## Chapter 1: How to Edit the Document

You may now edit this document. If you have already begun your thesis or dissertation in another document, you may want to copy and paste sections of your document into this template. You will need to apply the correct heading styles to your headings so that they your document is accessible. Correct headings also populate the automated Table of Contents in this document, which is a great way to save time and ensure that page numbers match the location of each section in the body of the document. More information on how to do this can be found in the following chapter.

## Chapter 2: How to Format Headings

The 7th Ed. APA Style headings programmed into this document have been approved by the Teacher Education Department at USI. If you are using 7th Ed. APA Style headings, you do not need to modify the heading styles in this document; you only need to apply each heading style to the headings in your text. To apply a heading, select the appropriate level from the Styles menu (keyboard shortcut: Alt+H+L) before typing your heading or highlight the text and then select the appropriate level from the Styles menu (see Figure 2). Be sure to apply a heading style to each heading that appears in your document. This ensures that they are formatted consistently in the text and appear in the autogenerated Table of Contents.

Figure 1  
Applying APA Style Headings



### 7th Ed. APA Style Headings

The Department of Teacher Education requires students to use 7th Ed. APA Style headings. Table 1 shows how each heading level should be formatted. Following 7th Ed. APA Style guidelines, Level 4 and 5 headings should run-in to the body of the paragraph. More information on how to format run-in headings so they appear correctly in the automated Tale of Contents is described later in this chapter.

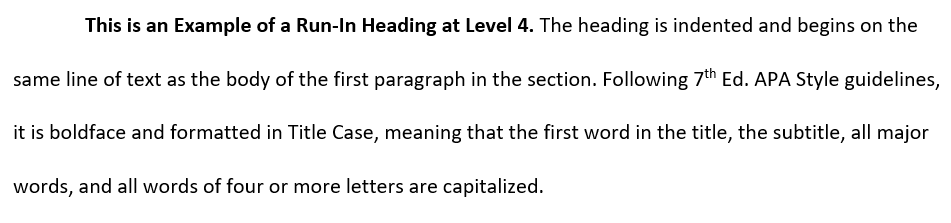
Table 1  
Format for the Five Levels of Heading in APA Style

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Level | Format |
| 1 | **Centered, Bold, Title Case Heading**  Text begins as a new paragraph |
| 2 | **Flush Left, Bold, Title Case Heading**  Text begins as a new paragraph. |
| 3 | ***Flush Left, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading***  Text begins as a new paragraph. |
| 4 | **Indented, Bold, Title Case Heading, Ending With a Period.** Text begins on the same line and continues as a regular paragraph. |
| 5 | ***Indented, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading, Ending With a Period*.** Text begins on the same line and continues as a regular paragraph. |

#### What is a Run-In Heading?

A run-in heading is a heading that is formatted to begin on the same line as the text in the first paragraph of the section. The body text in the section begins after the period in the heading, instead of beginning on the line below the heading. Figure 3 shows how a Level 4 heading should be formatted according to 7th Ed. APA Style guidelines.

Figure 2  
Example of a Run-In Heading



Formatting Run-In Headings for Accessibility and an Automated Table of Contents. As noted previously, to apply a heading you can either select the appropriate level from the Styles menu (Alt+H+L) before typing your heading or highlight the text and then select the appropriate level from the Styles menu. When you hit enter, the document will automatically format the next paragraph with the Body style unless you select a different one. Level 4 and 5 Headings in 7th Ed. APA Style use a run-in heading where the text begins on the same line at the end of the heading. To apply the Level 4 and Level 5 styles, indent using the Tab key, then type your heading and the start of your paragraph text first. Then select just the heading text and click on the appropriate Level Style in your Word application.

### Updating the Automated Table of Contents

An automated Table of Contents has already been created in this document. To update the table to reflect the contents of your document, apply the appropriate heading style to each of the headings in your document, as described in the beginning of this chapter. After you have applied heading styles to each heading in your document, return to the Table of Contents and right click anywhere in the list. From the drop-down menu, select the option to Update field. Select the option to “Update the entire table”. To update the Table of Contents without using a mouse, move your cursor into the table with arrow keys and type Alt+Shift+F12 to select the table’s functional buttons. Use arrow keys to select the “Update Table” option, which will open a pop-up window. Select “Update the entire table” option and hit Enter. Each heading that has a heading style applied should appear in the Table of Contents.

## Chapter 3: How to Format Tables and Figures

This section includes instructions for utilizing Word functions to properly insert, label, and format tables and figures. Detailed information on how to format the content within tables and figures, as well as many examples of different types of tables and figures, is available in Chapter 7: Tables and Figures of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

### Placement of Tables and Figures

Tables and figures in the document should appear after the complete paragraph in which they are mentioned. Tables that are small enough to fit on a single page should not be split. For these smaller tables, if there is not enough room for a table immediately after the paragraph in which it is mentioned, insert a page break so that the table falls at the top of the following page. To insert a page break in Word, hit Ctrl+Enter or click on the Insert tab at the top of the application then select Page Break (see Figure 4). All tables and figures must fall within the margins of the document. Tables and figures, including titles and captions, should be left-aligned consistently throughout the document.

Figure 3  
Insert a Page Break



### Spacing Before and After Tables and Figures

There must be one blank double-spaced line before and after each figure and table in the document, inclusive of table titles, figure captions, and notes, if present. This line is not required above items that fall at the top of a page or under items that fall at the bottom of page.

One way to make it easier to check if your spacing is correct is to use the function in Word that allows you to see non-printing characters. To do this, in the Home tab, select the ¶ symbol, (circled in red in Figure 5). When this option is selected, this symbol will appear everywhere in the document where a return has been entered, allowing you to easily see how many blank lines are inserted before and after tables and figures.

Figure 4  
*Toggling Non-Printing Formatting Marks in Word*

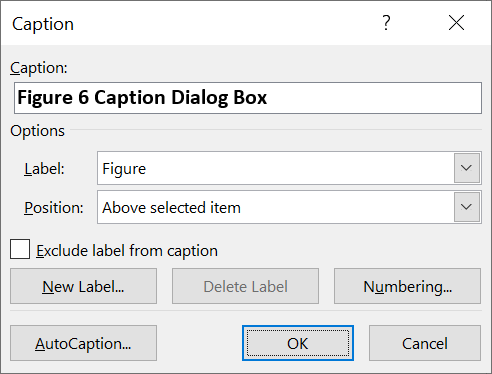


### Inserting Captions and Titles

All tables and figures should have a caption and a title. By using the built-in Word processes for applying these captions and titles, the auto-generated list of tables and list of figures at the beginning of this document will be updated.

To insert a caption, right click on your table or figure and select Insert Caption (Keyboard shortcut: select the table or figure and type Alt+S+P). This will open the caption dialog window similar to Figure 6. The label of “Figure” should appear for images and the label “Table” should appear for tables. Do not use images of tables. All tables should be constructed as tables in Word, Excel or a similar program. Word will automatically supply the table or figure number based on the how many are already in the document before it. Add the title of the figure or table after the label and number in the dialog box as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 5  
*Caption Dialog Box*



In order to format the caption and titles according to APA guidelines, you must now edit each caption and title in your document. 7th Ed. APA Style calls for the caption to be bold. This is how the caption and title should appear by default in this template. Titles, however, are supposed to be on a separate line in italics. A hard return between the caption label and title will remove the title from the autogenerated table at the start of this document. To achieve the different formatting while maintaining the title in the autogenerated table, you must insert a “soft return”. To do this, delete the space between the table number and the first word of the title. With the cursor between the table number and the first word of the title, hold down Shift and press Enter. The title should appear on a second line. If you turn on the non-printing formatting marks as shown in Figure 5, you will see a ↵ symbol instead of the ¶ symbol. Now you will need to select the title, turn off bold formatting (Ctrl+B) and apply italic formatting (Ctrl+I). You can check your formatting by comparing your table or figure to the ones in this document along with the automated table. When you update the tables (using the same method described to update the automated Table of Contents) you should see the label and title together.

### Sizing Tables and Figures

No tables or figures in the document can fall into the margins. If a table is longer than one page, repeat the heading row on each subsequent page of the table using the Table Properties. To open the Table Properties dialog box, right click on your table and select Table Properties. Once the dialog box is open, select the Row tab and then check the box next to “Repeat as header row at the top of each page” (see Figure 7). To repeat header rows via keyboard, move your cursor into the header row of the table. Type Alt+JL+J to select the “Repeat Header Rows” option.

Figure 6  
*Repeating Header Row on Long Tables*



For tables and figures that are too wide to fit on a portrait-oriented page, it is acceptable to use landscape orientation If you have table or figure that is too large for the margins, there are a few options you can choose from to correct the problem:

1. Resize the table or figure so it is small enough to fit within the margins.
2. Place the table or figure by itself on a landscape-oriented page.

#### **Resizing a Table or Figure.**

To resize a figure, right-click on the image and select Size and Position… from the drop-down menu (keyboard shortcut: Alt+JP+PO, then type L to select “More Layout Options”). In the dialog box, in the Size tab, the Absolute Width should be no wider than 6.5 inches. To resize a table, right-click in the box that appears in the top, left corner of the table and select Table Properties… from the drop-down menu (keyboard shortcut: Alt+JL+O). In the dialog box, in the Table tab, the Preferred width should be no wider than 6.5 inches.

#### **Using Landscape-Oriented Pages for Large Tables and Figures.**

Tables and figures that are too wide to fit on a standard portrait-oriented page may be better suited to landscape orientation. Only the table or figure (including the table title or figure caption and notes, if present) should appear on pages with landscape orientation. In order to change the orientation of a single page, you must use section breaks to separate the table or figure. Before you begin, enable the option to see non-printing characters, as shown in Figure 5 of this document. This will allow you see where section breaks have been inserted and make it easier to ensure correct formatting. After you do this, place your cursor after the last paragraph that appears before the table/figure. Then, go to the Layout tab at the top of the page (keyboard shortcut: Alt+P). Click on Breaks (keyboard shortcut: B), and then select the “Next Page” option to insert a section break and start the break on the next page. Then, place your cursor directly below the table/figure (after the caption for figures, and/or after any notes that accompany the table/figure). Repeat this step to insert another section break after the table/figure, and again choose the option to start the break on the next page. After you do this, the table/figure should appear by itself on a page.

In the Layout tab of your Word application, click on Orientation (keyboard shortcut: Alt+P+O) and select Landscape. If you have correctly inserted section breaks before and after the table, only this page should appear in landscape orientation.

### Making Tables and Figures Accessible

Tables and figures should not be used for decorative purposes in an academic paper, so you need to provide alternative text, or alt text, so screen readers can properly convey the purpose of each figure and table.

#### Image Alt Text

Determine the message or meaningful information conveyed in your figure and write a concise text description. Strive for brief, informative sentences with proper punctuation. Put the most important information first and avoid abbreviations and acronyms unless they have been previously defined. You do not need to include information that’s already present in the caption and title.

To provide alt text for a figure, right-click on the image and select Edit Alt Text (keyboard shortcut: Alt+JP+AT). Add your description to the box. Note that you may need to remove an automatically generated alt text.

#### Use Table Styles

Accessible tables should indicate which cells are for headers and which are for rows. Without those labels, people using assistive technology won’t be able to make sense of the information. Sometimes the reader will speak out the information in a different order than it appears. To avoid these issues, use table styles to ensure a header row and first column (if applicable) are identified. Click within the table and look for the Table Tools: Design or Table Design menu at the top of your Word application (keyboard shortcut: Alt+JT). Click on the Design tab to see Table Style Options and select Header Row and First Column, as appropriate (see Figure 8). For keyboard navigators, the Header Row and First Column options correspond to the keystrokes A and M, respectively, once you are in the Table Design menu.

Figure 7  
*Table Design for Indicating Header Row and First Column*



#### Table Alt Text

If your table is very complex, alt text can provide users of adaptive technology the same summary information that sighted users can get quickly when browsing a table. Just like with image alt text, write a brief, informative summary in complete sentences. To add alt text to your table, right-click on the table and select Table Properties (keyboard shortcut: Alt+JL+O). Select the Alt Text tab in the Table Properties window and add your description.

## Chapter 4: Dissertation Outline

This chapter includes a brief outline of the chapters required for the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program from the Dissertation Manual. Please refer to the Dissertation Manual, your advisor, or program director for more details.

### Chapter One: A Problem of Practice

The first chapter serves as an introduction to the topic and, therefore, often begins with a historical overview or a specific description of the contemporary context connected to the topic. Following a clear problem statement and purpose statement, the remainder of Chapter 1 answers questions, one might expect a reader to ask about the study.

### Chapter Two: A Review of Relevant Literature

In a sense, Chapter 2 delineates everything that is known about the problem to be studied by identifying and describing related existing research. An effective literature review will exhibit what others have discovered before you begin an investigation of your own, it will ground your study in a particular context of what is known about a topic, and it will establish a foundation for the problem of practice and inquiry questions being researched.

### Chapter Three: Methodology

This chapter describes the methods you used to study the problem of practice you selected. The chapter should re-state the research questions or hypotheses identified in Chapter 1, and then describe all necessary elements connected to the methodology. You should clearly describe the design of the study and delineate all the pieces connected to the methodology.

### Chapter Four: Findings

It is best to begin this chapter by reminding the reader of the research questions or hypotheses. The next step is to select a clear, easy-to-follow organizational strategy. Some “findings” chapters are organized around themes, others around cases, research questions, categories, or data treatment methods.

### Chapter Five: Conclusions

This chapter is primarily about giving meaning to the findings produced through the dissertation process. The chapter generally starts by summarizing the findings exhibited in Chapter 4 and then connecting them to any potential realm of usefulness. Sometimes chapter five includes subheadings to this effect, e. g., “Implications for Practice,” or “Implications for Policy,” etc. Virtually all dissertations will include a subheading delineating “recommendations for further research.”

## Chapter 5: The Submission Process

After your defense, your committee will determine if require changes or corrections to your dissertation. If the committee has requested no changes or corrections in your document, the committee members will sign the Defense Report form. If the committee requires changes or corrections in your document, you must make the changes as your committee has requested. When your committee is satisfied that your document is finished, committee members will sign the Defense Report form. Your committee chair is responsible for forwarding the completed form to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Once you have received notice from the Office of Graduate Studies that your dissertation has been approved, you can submit your final document to [SOAR at USI](https://soar.usi.edu/).

1. Login to SOAR at USI using your USI credentials.
2. Access the [Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Collection](https://soar.usi.edu/handle/20.500.12419/589) located in the Dissertation collection within the Thesis, Capstones, and Dissertations community.
3. Select “[Submit a new item to this collection](https://soar.usi.edu/handle/20.500.12419/589/submit).”
4. Accept the Submission Agreement.
5. Complete the Submission Form.

When your submission has been processed, you will be notified via email. The SOAR at USI record will include a Uniform Resource Identified (URI) link, which is a stable, permanent link you can use to share your dissertation with others. Your dissertation will also be indexed by search engines and discoverable through searches such as Google and Google Scholar.

## References

References should be formatted consistently and in accordance with 7th Ed. APA Style. Tip sheets and examples are available from the [Rice Library APA Style Guide Page](http://usi.libguides.com/citingsources/apa). If you are using a citation manager with a Word plug-in, such as [Zotero](http://usi.libguides.com/citation-managers), delete this paragraph and Add/Insert Bibliography here.

Appendices

## Appendix A: Guidelines for Appendices

The appendices include materials that interrupt the flow of the body of the document. Examples might include copies of surveys or instruments used in your research, protocols, permission letters, or transcripts. The heading for each appendix should be descriptive and formatted as a Level 1 heading so that it appears in the Table of Contents. Sub-headings within appendices should not appear in the Table of Contents, so they should not be formatted with the Style headings. Margins and page numbers in appendices are formatted consistently with the rest of the document; however, text, tables, figures, and other information may be in any format. Items and text contained in appendices must fall within the margins of the document.