

# The `apa6e` class\*

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## 1 Introduction

This is a minimalist class file for formatting manuscripts in the style described the American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition guidelines. Perhaps someday the more capable `apa.cls` will gain support for 6th edition APA formatting, in which case you should probably use it instead. But in the mean time, this class may be useful.

Note that this class relies heavily on existing L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X packages to do its work. If you're using a reasonably complete L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X distribution like T<sub>E</sub>X Live then you probably have them already, but if not then they can all be retrieved from CTAN.

## 2 Usage

Here's a sample document to get you started:

```
\documentclass{apa6e}
\usepackage{apacite} % This is not done automatically!
\bibliographystyle{apacite}
\title{A simple, correct explanation for every aspect of mental function}
\shorttitle{Psychology: the end}
\author{Over J.~Optimistic\\Pie in the Sky University}
\authornote{\dots}
\abstract{\dots}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
I have discovered a truly remarkable theory which
this example is too small to contain.
\bibliography{my-refs}
\end{document}
```

Pretty simple, really. But for a few more details, read on.

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\*This document corresponds to `apa6e` v0.1, dated 2011/02/12.

## 2.1 References

This class does not provide any built-in support for formatting references in APA style; I suggest using either the classic `apacite` package, or the `biblatex-apa` package (which more accurately implements current APA guidelines, but depends on use of the new `biblatex` system).

If you do use `apacite`, then this package will automatically make sure that it uses the appropriate style of header. If you use `biblatex-apa`, then you're on your own — if you try this, please let me know whether you had to adjust anything!

## 2.2 Class options

This class supports two options.

### 2.2.1 `leavefloats`

When reading drafts, I find the APA manuscript format quite usable, except that I find it very annoying to have to flip back and forth between the text and tables/figures/their captions. Use this option if you want to let L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X do use normal handling of floats, e.g.: `\documentclass[leavefloats]{apa6e}`.

To make sure you don't forget to take it out before submitting, this also inserts a large note on the front page to remind you that you are looking at a draft with illegitimate formatting.

### 2.2.2

endnotes APA style allows footnotes to either be formatted as footnotes directly in the text, or placed at the end in a 'Footnotes' section. By default we do the former; if you really want the latter for some reason, then enable this option: `\documentclass[endnotes]{apa6e}`.

Of course, if you want both, then you can accomplish that in the usual way: `\documentclass[leavefloats,endnotes]{apa6e}`.

## 2.3 Known limitations

We currently make no attempt to alter the standard list environments (`itemize`, `enumerate`). As far as I can tell they are already APA compliant, but they might introduce enough extra vertical spacing as to be visually unpleasant. If this bothers you and you find a good solution, let me know. (Also, we don't even attempt to reproduce `apa.cls`'s `seriate` environment. I'm not sure why one would use it in the first place.)

We only format manuscripts; in particular, there is no equivalent to `apa.cls`'s `jou` or `doc` modes. I don't really see the point, personally, so I'm unlikely to fix this, but if you find one of these modes useful and want to write some code for it, then contributions are welcome.

## 2.4 Known *Non*-limitations

In `apa.cls`, you cannot have any blank lines around `\maketitle`, or formatting gets screwed up. When using `apa6e.cls`, you can use as many blank lines as you like. Go crazy.

In `apa.cls`, you must be careful about where you place your captions inside a floating environment — they must go at the top of `table` environments, and at the bottom of `figure` environments. In `apa6e.cls`, you can put your captions where-ever you want, and they’ll still come out in the right place. One less thing to worry about.

## 2.5 New macros

`\mspart` This class defines just one new macro, and you shouldn’t need to use it. But just in case... `\mspart` is a new sectioning command, designed to format the header at the beginning of each APA manuscript ‘part’ — e.g., the abstract, the main body, the references, etc. The syntax is exactly the same as for `\section` and friends, e.g.: `\mspart{Abstract}`. However, since all the standard manuscript parts are generated automatically by other macros, this is unlikely to be useful.

## 3 Implementation

Define our options, and then load up the standard article class.

```
1 \DeclareOption{endnotes}{\def\apaSIXe@endnotes\relax}
2 \DeclareOption{leavefloats}{\def\apaSIXe@leavefloats\relax}
```

All unrecognized options are passed through to article.

```
3 \DeclareOption*{%
4 \PassOptionsToClass{\CurrentOption}{article}%
5 }
6 \ProcessOptions\relax
7 \LoadClass[12pt]{article}
```

We want to typeset everything in Times, including math.

```
8 \RequirePackage{times}
9 \RequirePackage{mathptmx}
```

Set margins and justification.

```
10 \RequirePackage[margin=1in]{geometry}
11 \RequirePackage[document]{ragged2e}
```

APA 6e says that indents should be “5–7 spaces, or 1/2 inch”. We’ll use the latter.

```
12 \setlength{\RaggedRightParindent}{0.5in}
```

Doublespacing: The `setspace` package has the good taste to disable doublespacing for things like captions and footnotes; the APA doesn’t. Which is totally reasonable, but it means that we can’t use `setspace`. I stole this magic number from the `setspace` code — it is only correct for 12 pt font. But we only support 12 pt font anyway.

```

13 \newcommand{\@doublespacing}{\linespread{1.655}}
14 \@doublespacing
Set up the running header.
15 \RequirePackage{fancyhdr}
16 \setlength{\headheight}{15.2pt}
17 \fancyhf{}
18 \renewcommand{\headrulewidth}{0pt}
19 \rhead{\thepage}
20 \fancypagestyle{titlepage}{\lhead{Running head: \MakeUppercase{\@shorttitle}}}
21 \fancypagestyle{otherpage}{\lhead{\MakeUppercase{\@shorttitle}}}
22 \pagestyle{otherpage}

```

### 3.1 The title page

The commands to capture the various bits of the title page and abstract.

```

23 \newcommand{\shorttitle}[1]{\def\@shorttitle{#1}}
24 \renewcommand{\title}[1]{\def\@title{#1}}
25 \renewcommand{\author}[1]{\def\@author{#1}}
26 \newcommand{\authornote}[1]{\def\@authornote{#1}}
27 \renewcommand{\abstract}[1]{\def\@abstract{#1}}

```

And here's how we actually format the title page.

```

28 \renewcommand{\maketitle}{%
29 \thispagestyle{titlepage}%
30 \vspace*{1in}%
31 \Centering\@title\\\@author%
32 \vfill%
33 \ifdefined%
34   \apaSIXe@leavefloats%
35   {\large\textbf{Note! Figures and tables are currently mixed in with
36     text for easy reading; remember to remove the \textsf{leavefloats}
37     option before submission.}\vfill}%
38 \fi
39 Author Note\par\RaggedRight\@authornote%
40 \mspart{Abstract}%
41 \@abstract%
42 \mspart{\@title}}

```

By default, the apacite package will format the beginning of the references as if a section, by calling `\section{References}`. But that would be wrong. So we override the internal command that it uses to do this.

```

43 \AtBeginDocument{\def\st@rtbibsection{\mspart{References}}}

```

### 3.2 Captions

Caption formatting is complicated. For tables, captions go above the float body, and are formatted like:

<p>Table 3</p> <p><i>My fabulous table</i></p>
--

For figures, captions go below the float body, and are formatted like:

<p><i>Figure 7: My smashing graph.</i></p>
--

```

44 \RequirePackage{float}
45 \floatstyle{plaintop}
46 \restylefloat{table}
47 \floatstyle{plain} % This puts captions below the figure
48 \restylefloat{figure}
49 \RequirePackage[singlelinecheck=off,justification=RaggedRight]{caption}
50 \DeclareCaptionLabelFormat{tablelabel}{\hspace{-\RaggedRightParindent}#1 #2}
51 \DeclareCaptionLabelFormat{figurelabel}{\hspace{-\RaggedRightParindent}\textit{#1 #2}}
52 \DeclareCaptionTextFormat{tabletext}{\hspace{-\RaggedRightParindent}\textit{#1}}
53 \captionsetup[table]{position=above,labelformat=tablelabel,labelsep=newline,
54                      textformat=tabletext}
55 \captionsetup[figure]{position=below,labelformat=figurelabel}

```

### 3.3 Sectioning

First, disable section numbering.

```
56 \setcounter{secnumdepth}{0}
```

Now, redefine the various sectioning commands to look like APA titles — `\section` is APA level 1, `\subsection` is APA level 2, etc. This requires we use the `\@startsection` macro, which is very confusing. Apparently it is documented in something called `rep10.doc`; I found the relevant snippet at <http://help-csli.stanford.edu/tex/latex-sections.shtml> and reproduce it here for reference:

```

\@startsection {NAME}{LEVEL}{INDENT}{BEFORESKIP}{AFTERSKIP}{STYLE}
               optional * [ALTHEADING]{HEADING}
Generic command to start a section.
NAME          : e.g., 'subsection'
LEVEL         : a number, denoting depth of section -- e.g., chapter=1,
                section = 2, etc. A section number will be printed if
                and only if LEVEL < or = the value of the secnumdepth
                counter.
INDENT        : Indentation of heading from left margin
BEFORESKIP    : Absolute value = skip to leave above the heading.
                If negative, then paragraph indent of text following
                heading is suppressed.
AFTERSKIP     : if positive, then skip to leave below heading,
                else - skip to leave to right of run-in heading.
STYLE         : commands to set style
If '*' missing, then increments the counter. If it is present, then
there should be no [ALTHEADING] argument. A sectioning command
is normally defined to \@startsection + its first six arguments.

```

`\section` Now, the code. For level 1 and 2 titles, we give them just a *little* bit of extra vertical room — I find it makes them much easier to read.

`\subsection`

```

57 \renewcommand{\section}{\@startsection {section}{1}{\z@}%
58     {0.2\baselineskip \@plus 0.2ex \@minus 0.2ex}%
59     {0.2\baselineskip \@plus .2ex}%
60     {\Centering\normalfont\normalsize\bfseries}}
61 \renewcommand{\subsection}{\@startsection{subsection}{2}{\z@}%
62     {0.2\baselineskip \@plus 0.2ex \@minus 0.2ex}%
63     {0.2\baselineskip \@plus 0.2ex}%
64     {\normalfont\normalsize\bfseries}}

```

`\subsubsection` For levels 3–5, we don’t add any extra vertical spacing, but we do add just a little bit of extra horizontal space between the section name and the text. And of course, we need to handle the obligatory period.

`\paragraph`

`\subparagraph`

```

65 \renewcommand{\subsubsection}[1]{\@startsection{subsubsection}{3}{\parindent}%
66     {0\baselineskip \@plus 0.2ex \@minus 0.2ex}%
67     {-\z@}%
68     {\normalfont\normalsize\bfseries}{#1}\textbf{.}\hspace{0.2em}}
69 \renewcommand{\paragraph}[1]{\@startsection{paragraph}{4}{\parindent}%
70     {0\baselineskip \@plus 0.2ex \@minus 0.2ex}%
71     {-\z@}%
72     {\normalfont\normalsize\bfseries\itshape}{#1}\textbf{\textit{.}}\hspace{0.2em}}
73 \renewcommand{\subparagraph}[1]{\@startsection{subparagraph}{5}{\parindent}%
74     {0\baselineskip \@plus 0.2ex \@minus 0.2ex}%
75     {-\z@}%
76     {\normalfont\normalsize\itshape}{#1}\textit{.}\hspace{0.2em}}

```

`\mspart` And we define a new sectioning command, for beginning ‘manuscript parts’ (e.g., abstract, main body, references). Unlike section headings, these should *not* be bolded, but we do disable following indentation. (Note that we cheat and re-use the section counter, which doesn’t matter since sections are unnumbered anyway.)

```

77 \newcommand{\mspart}{\newpage\@startsection {section}{1}{\z@}%
78     {-0.2\baselineskip \@plus -0.2ex \@minus -0.2ex}%
79     {0.2\baselineskip \@plus .2ex}%
80     {\Centering\normalfont\normalsize}}

```

### 3.4 Endnotes

If the user requested endnotes, then set them up here. I’m not sure why you’d want this, but I wrote the code before realizing that ordinary footnotes were legal, so you get the benefit of my mistake.

```

81 \ifdefined\apaSIXe@endnotes
82     \RequirePackage{endnotes}
83     \renewcommand{\enoteheading}{\mspart{Footnotes}}
84     \def\enotesize{\normalsize}
85     \renewcommand{\footnote}[1]{\def\apaSIXe@hasendnotes\relax{\endnote{#1}}
86     \AtEndDocument{\ifdefined \apaSIXe@hasendnotes \theendnotes \fi}
87 \fi

```

### 3.5 Floats at the end

This must come after the endnotes handling above, since they both use `\AtEndDocument` and floats are supposed to come after footnotes.

```
88 \ifdefined\apaSIx@leavefloats
89   \relax
90 \else
91   \RequirePackage[nolists,noheads,nomarkers,tablesfirst]{endfloat}
92   \AtBeginDelayedFloats{\@doublespacing}
93 \fi
```

## Change History

v0.1

General: Initial version . . . . . 1

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