Running head: THIS IS THE REAL RUNNING HEAD

(NOTE: double space everything from this point on)

This is the Title:

It is Centered on the Page

(NOTE: using capital & lowercase lettering)

Put your name and the names of other authors here

Put your institution here
Abstract

(centered, no underline)

(Justify to the left, no indent)

This is the abstract. It should be a 100 to 120-word summary of the paper. It should describe: (a) the problem under investigation and hypothesis (one sentence, if possible); (b) the participants and their relevant characteristics (number, sex, manner of recruitment, age); (c) the experimental method, design, materials; (d) any findings (do not express statistics); (e) conclusions and implications drawn from the data. The function of the abstract is to allow someone who is searching the psychology literature to determine if an article is relevant enough to retrieve and read. *A tip- it is best to write the abstract last, though it is the second page of the paper.* [You do not need to write an Abstract for your Observation Mini-experiment paper.]
Justify to the left and indent each paragraph. In a psychology journal article, the introduction is usually several pages long. In this assignment, it should be a couple of paragraphs. It focuses on: (a) the problem being studied, i.e., what is the point of the current investigation and why it is interesting; (b) previous literature that speaks to the problem, approximately one paragraph per piece of literature, although you have no previous research for this paper; (c) the purpose and rationale of what your study did.

You should discuss what type of study was used (observational in this case), the variables you manipulated, the variables you recorded, and how you operationally defined those variables. Generally, writers make a formal statement of the hypothesis, i.e., what results were expected and why.

Method

(centered, no underline, do not start a new page)

Participants (in italics)

(indent) Describe number, sex, method of recruitment, etc.

Materials (in italics)

(indent) Describe all materials used such as questions, scales, scenarios, pictures, etc. You probably won’t have any materials in your observation.

Design and Procedure (in italics)

(indent) Describe what you did, the environment, the situation, and any standard procedure that was used. Be as detailed as possible.
Results

(indent) Report the results of the statistical analyses of your data. In this case, you will probably only have percentages or frequencies to report. Don’t worry about doing any statistical tests at this stage.

Discussion

(indent) Interpret your results. What do they mean? Was your hypothesis supported? Give some possible reasons why your hypothesis was or was not supported. Were there any confounds that you did not catch when designing your experiment?

Often, writers will summarize their study in the discussion, then discuss any further studies that might further their research endeavors. They also often try to tie their research into a theory or discuss how it fits in with other studies that have been done previously (the literature introduced in the introduction).

References

(indent, no underline, do not start a new page)


[You won’t need to have any references in your Observational paper.]

***See APA Manual for details on appendices, tables and figures. A sample paper and outline can be found on pages 305 to 320 of the 5th edition publication manual.***