Title of Your Essay

Your Name

Course Number & Title

Instructor's Name

Month Day, Year

Title of Your Essay

Start the first paragraph here. It should [introduce](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/introductions-conclusions) your reader to the subject you are writing about, as well as your particular position or claim. Before you can create your first paragraph, check that you [Understand Your Assignment](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/understanding-your-assignment). You can use this template to help you format your paper. For longer papers, include sub-headings or [levels of heading](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/apa-style-elements).

**The Writing Process**

Spend time planning your paper. A good practice is to brainstorm ideas and decide how to express the main idea or thesis. Once you have a rough idea of what you want to say or argue, [create an outline](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/outlining) or list to help you organize the evidence you plan to present. For more suggestions, please read about thesis statements on our Ashford Writing Center website: [Thesis Statements](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/writing-a-thesis).

**Writing the Body Paragraphs**

Each paragraph of your assignment should be clear and easy to follow. We have several good resources to help you write a strong paragraph, such as [How to Write a Good Paragraph](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/body-paragraphs) page and the [Integrating Research](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/integrating-research) page.

**Using Citations Correctly**

In addition to being well-written, each paragraph should include an [in-text citation](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/citing-within-your-paper) for all information [summarized, paraphrased, or quoted](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/quoting-paraphrasing-summarizing) from outside sources. The Ashford Writing Center provides many resources to help you follow correct citation style (primarily APA) and gives lessons and examples of how to paraphrase and cite sources. The [Introduction to APA](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/introduction-apa) page is a good place to start.

References

The following are commonly used references. Please fill in the required information, and if you need more help, see the [Formatting Your References List](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/format-your-reference-list) page. References are listed in alphabetical order.

***Ashford Textbook (Online edition): \****

Author, A. (Year published). *Title of book: Subtitle of book* (edition, if other than the first) [Electronic version]. Retrieved from from URL

**Example**:

Witt, G. A., & Mossler, R. A. (2010). *Adult development and life assessment* [Electronic version]. Retrieved from https://content.ashford.edu/books/4

***Online Journal Article (such as from the Ashford Library):\*\****

Author, A. (Year Published). Article title. Journal Name, Volume(Issue), page range. doi:# or Retrieved from journal’s homepage URL

\*\*When including a URL for an online journal, you must search for the journal’s home page and include this in your reference entry. You may not include the URL found through your university library, as readers will not have access to this library.

**Examples:**

Churchill, S. D., & Mruk, C. J. (2014). Practicing what we preach in humanistic and positive psychology. *American Psychologist*, *69*(1), 90-92. doi:10.1037/a0034868

Santovec, M. (2008). Easing the transition improves grad retention at Trinity U. Women in Higher Education, 17(10), 32. Retrieved from http://www.trinitydc.edu/education/files/2010/09/Women\_in\_higher\_  
Ed\_Trinity\_Transistions\_10\_08.pdf

***Online Magazine:\****

Author, A. (Year, Month Date Published). Article title. Magazine Title. Retrieved from URL

**Example**:

Walk, V. (2013, April 29). Can this woman fix Europe? Time. Retrieved from http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,213969.html

***YouTube Video:\****

Author, A. [Screen name]. (Year, Month, Day). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from URL

**Example:**

Apsolon, M. [markapsolon]. (2011, September 9). *Real ghost girl caught on video tape 14*

[Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nyGCbxD848

***Web Page:\****

Author, A. (Year, Month, Date Published). Article title. Retrieved from URL

**Example—Corporate web page:**

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2008). Police and detectives. Retrieved from http://bls.gov/oco/pdf/ocos160.pdf

**Example—Article or section within web page with no author:**

Presentation tools. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://web2014.discoveryeducation.com/web20tools-presentation.cfm

***\*Please delete the headers and notes in this document before submitting your assignment.***