

Evaluation Form: APA Best Practices Flash Tutorial

Evaluation Form

Program: APA Best Practices Tutorial Prototype

Reviewer: Design Time Team

Date: June 13, 2010

ITEM	Acceptable	Needs work	Comments
<i>Subject matter</i>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very clear and descriptive listing of what will occur throughout the body of the tutorial from the onset with this comprehensive Table of Contents. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an APA Title Page 2. Create an Abstract 3. Formatting 4. Citing References 5. Creating a Reference List • My first impetus, however, was to click on each heading, and I was disappointed to learn that the TOC did not lead you directly to the sections listed. • Enhanced graphic content would make this material more visually appealing, but considering the subject, the group had to rely on text versus imagery to meet their learning objectives. • I could not get the back button to operate, but had to go back to the entry point to rerun the tutorial. • The type is pixilated throughout, and I don't know why this is. If it was generated in another program, or it was blown up in the Flash application. It could be crisper and bolder to make it more readable throughout. • The content is appropriately connected to the section and paragraph within the book.
Matches goals	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is in direct alignment with stated objectives.
Content structure Content accuracy	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very clear and descriptive listing of what will happen from the onset with this comprehensive Table of Contents. My first impetus, however, was to click on each heading, and I was disappointed to learn that the TOC did not lead you directly to the sections listed. The material is drawn directly from the APA Style Manual and is precise and accurate.

Language, style, grammar	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objectives are concise and clearly stated, leaving no doubt as to the material covered. The content matches the objectives in lockstep. The language is appropriate to the subject matter. It is consistently brief, clear and functional.
Reading level	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reading level seems to be 8th grade, which is standard newspaper reading level, and appropriate to the material. It is simply and concise.
Cultural bias – language Cultural bias - reference	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I did not detect any overt cultural bias in language or reference usage.
Technical terms and jargon	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tutorial did not make use of difficult technical terms and jargon that were unexplained.
Spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no errors detected in spelling, grammar and punctuation throughout the program. Some key words, however, such as Abstract are capitalized and then used in lower case inconsistently. It should be used consistently throughout the tutorial.
Glossary	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No glossary is provided and this is appropriate to the subject matter, as none is really needed.
Hot words	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no hot words or hyperlinks used throughout this tutorial. This may be an interesting treatment to introduce hotlinks to an online APA style guide to obtain graphic examples. But not necessary.
Auxiliary information			
Introduction	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objectives are concise and clearly stated, leaving no doubt as to the material covered. The content matches the objectives in lockstep. The language is appropriate to the subject matter. It is consistently brief, clear and functional. There is not an introduction per se, just a description of objectives, and this is appropriate to the material.
Directions	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The user is guided to click a topic button to travel directly to a specific section. They are coached on the use of the next arrow to proceed to the next Section.
Help	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HELP is very clear and user friendly. But again, I thought it may actually be functional and tried to click on it. It would be ideal if it were usable.
Conclusion		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No conclusion provided in this prototype.
Affective considerations			
Motivation		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users are challenged with a quiz which should increase the motivational factors of the program. In the prototype there are no breadcrumbs or

			<p>indications to the users where they are in the program which may negatively impact the users affectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think a motivational statement on the Title screen for the program would help to make users more interested in continuing. • Affectively, I think the users will become frustrated by the Exit and Help buttons which don't return the users back to the screens where they were at when clicking on those buttons.
Interface			
<p>Displays Presentation modes Text quality Animation and graphics Input Spacing</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean, intuitive and unobtrusive, I think that the topic buttons should have a rollover effect to help the user identify that they are clickable elements. • Breadcrumbs would be helpful to allow the user to identify where they are in the program. • Marking subjects in the APA manual with page numbers, "p23", in the titles of your screens is not intuitive to most users. • Rollovers on the "Title" don't appear to work correctly. When rolling over the running head a description of the title appears. There should also be an instruction to let users know that they can rollover the components for the screen for more information. Also other pop-ups appear on that page for no apparent reason – rollovers don't appear to be synched correctly with the page elements. • The back button appears on the "Directions" page, the "Help" page, the "Objectives" page, the "Menu" page, the "Title Page" page, the "Running Head" page, the "Running Head Quiz" page, and the "Abstract Page" page but has no functionality. • It might be better to put the APA section numbers under the APA book graphic and read e.g. "Section 2.01", I think this would make it clearer to the users that the number is a reference to a section of the APA book.
Navigation			
Navigation Aids		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that it would be better for the forward and

Passive bookmarking Active bookmarking			<p>back buttons to begin with the hollow white-filled look and change to the color-filled look when rolled over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When clicking on exit button I am taken to the exit screen and asked “are you sure you want to exit – yes or no”, when I choose “no” I am taken to the “Abstract Quiz” screen instead of the screen where I originally clicked on the exit button. This is confusing to user as it leaves them at a destination previously unseen which may negatively impact users affectively. If the user clicks “yes” when asked are they sure they want to exit then they receive a blank screen, there should be an instruction here to click on the browser’s close button. • The back button appears on the “Directions” page, the “Help” page, the “Objectives” page, the “Menu” page, the “Title Page” page, the “Running Head” page, the “Running Head Quiz” page, and the “Abstract Page” page but has no functionality. • When clicking on the Help button and navigating to the help screen the users only choice to continue is to click on the Next button to navigate back to the screen where they were when they clicked to get help. Your program should remember what screen the user was on when they clicked on the Help button and return them to that screen when the users is done reading the Help screen.
<i>Pedagogy</i>			
Methodologies	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tutorial outlines key learning objectives for what a learner can expect from this APA tutorial. The menu options indicate the specific areas which are covered in detail throughout the tutorial. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an APA Title Page 2. Create an Abstract 3. Formatting 4. Citing References 5. Creating a Reference List
Interactivity		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The order of APA sections flow consistently where the learner starts with an APA formatting guideline section which is then followed by a quiz. However, the interactivity of buttons on some pages needs to correspond with what is being taught. For example on the Title Page, specific guidelines about Author

			Byline do not appear when you click onto it. The corresponding text component for that button appears in the blank area below which a learner can easily overlook and miss out on the learning intended for that specific topic.
Cognitive capacity	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of information presented is appropriate. The tutorial is divided up into five key APA formatting sections which should not be overwhelming for a new learner.
Cooperative learning	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content and layout of the tutorial is one that can be used cooperatively by multiple users if necessary.
Learning metaphor			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. I did not notice a learning metaphor for this tutorial; however, I do not think that it would be necessary given the subject matter.
Learning Strategies	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing quizzes and graphic examples of an APA formatted paper are good learning strategies here. Because of the subject matter, it may also be helpful to offer learners additional pages or a link for examples of style mechanics, crediting sources, and references.
User control		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations to increase user control are indicated under the Interface and Navigation sections of this evaluation.
Questions Answering questions Quality of feedback Format of feedback		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having quizzes at the end of each section is great to assess learner understanding; however, because the quizzes didn't function the way it was intended to during this prototype phase, I was not able to assess the quality and format of feedback.
Mastery level			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable at this time. Since the prototype is in its early stages of development, there weren't any final assessments to determine mastery of APA formatting and guidelines. The quizzes throughout the tutorial do help to evaluate mastery after each section. Perhaps if this tutorial is used as part of a class or writing assistance program, papers can be submitted to an instructor or teacher's assistant via a digital drop box feature to evaluate/assess mastery level of APA guidelines.
<i>Invisible features</i>			
Records and data			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There wasn't a username or id function or feature throughout the tutorial; therefore I am assuming that learners and their quiz scores are not being tracked at this time.
Security and accessibility			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable at this time. I'm assuming though that if this tutorial is intended to be used as part of a course or writing program, security and accessibility features should be addressed at that time.
Too much data			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable at this time.

<i>Robustness</i>			
For normal user actions For unusual user actions On different computers, software, and browsers	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tutorial was viewable by all members of the evaluating team without any technical computer issues. Computer hardware, software, and browser specifications were not provided in the tutorial; however, we assume that these were outlined in the planning documents.
<i>Supplementary materials</i>			
Manual: General	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) is used for this tutorial.
Manual: Program operation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Manual: Program content			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Auxiliary materials			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Other resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable