Writing A Psychology Paper

ABSTRACT
* summarize paper’s major points (study, results, discussion)
  * specific and concise
  * 150 words or less
  * written in past tense
  * writing this last may help!

INTRODUCTION
* untitled section of the paper
* summarize other relevant literature
* detailed account of problem or research question
* include definitions of variables
* include predictions

MATERIALS AND METHODS
* include what you did & how and when you did it
* use subheadings
* this is the “cookbook” section
* use specific, informative language
* do not include any results
* written in past tense

RESULTS
* summarize and illustrate your findings
* use tables or figures if appropriate
* do not interpret data or draw conclusions
* written in past tense

DISCUSSION
* interpret your results and support with evidence
* refer to figures and tables
* recognize importance of “negative” results
* show both similarities and differences
* include suggestions for future research

LITERATURE CITED
* cite all sources used
* use APA