**Title of Report in Initial Capital Letters: Arial (24 points, Boldface) and No More Than Three Lines**

*Note that the title is left justified; this is the custom for publications in the US. Also this is the cover page and therefore does not have a page number.*



*Cover art, which is common on formal reports. Choose an image that either represents the work or orients the audience to the topic of the report.*

**Your Name  
Name of Your Department**

**Montana State University**

**Date**

**Title of Report in Initial Capital Letters:**

**Arial (18 points, Boldface) and**

**No More Than Three Lines**

Your Name

Name of Your Department

Montana State University

Date

**Summary**

Here you present a one- or two-paragraph summary of the report. This summary should stand alone (no reference to figures or tables in the text) and present the most important results of the work. Replace all writing in blue with your own writing. The line spacing for this paragraph is to be single-spaced, which is common in professional reports. Please indent all paragraphs in this document. XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

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*Note your paper may have different headings and subheadings but this will be the basic format for all reports.*

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**Introduction**

Headings are 14 points, flush left, and boldfaced. Use initial capitals. A good typeface for the heading is Arial, because it holds bold facing well. To preserve hierarchy, allot three line skips before the heading and two line skips after. In the “Introduction,” make sure that you orient the audience with sufficient background to understand what the problem is and why the problem was addressed. In this format, you formally reference the problem memo. A good test for this section is to imagine how well it would orient you should you read it a year from now. Also in the “Introduction,” be sure to state what the topic includes and any limitations about the topic.

Indent all paragraphs. Also, you may place 3 points between paragraphs, but do not place more—that would upset the special hierarchy of the headings and subheadings. In addition, make sure that you use the paragraph of the “Introduction” to map the report. This mapping serves as a transition to the report's middle.

**Methods**

Headings are 14 points, flush left, and boldfaced. Use initial capitals. A good typeface for the heading is Arial, because it holds bold facing well. To preserve hierarchy, allot three line skips before the heading and two line skips after. At least one paragraph should follow a heading before a subheading exists. The typeface given here for the text portion of this report is Times New Roman (on a Macintosh, Times would a comparable choice). Book Antiqua would also be a professional choice, especially for the single column format of a thesis. On a Macintosh, comparable typefaces to Book Antiqua are New Century Schoolbook and Palatino. In industry, the recommended spacing for a report is single spacing.

**First Subheading**

Subheadings should be 12 points and boldfaced. Insert two line skips before the sub-subheading and one line skip after. Use initial capitals. Note that subheadings are typically listed in the Table of Contents. Be conservative with subheadings in a report. A report is often an argument and, as such, requires series of uninterrupted paragraphs to state assertions and present evidence for those assertions. For the length of report that you have, avoid sub-subheadings, because they are often unnecessary. Rather than having sub-subheadings, which would be a third-level, have your paragraphs show the arrangement of your ideas.

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**Second Subheading**

If you have one sub-subheading, you must have a second. Otherwise, the first sub-subheading has nothing to be parallel with. Do not allow a heading or subheading to stand as a widow line at the bottom of a page. If the situation occurs, force a line break before the heading or subheading.

**Results**

Headings are 14 points, flush left, and boldfaced. Use initial capitals. A good typeface for the heading is Arial, because it holds bold facing well. To preserve hierarchy, allot three line skips before the heading and two line skips after. At least one paragraph should follow a heading before a subheading exists.

Another formatting consideration concerns the incorporation of figures and tables. Shown in Figure 1 is a common format that serves reports well. Note that the word *figure* is not abbreviated. In a single column document, such an abbreviation makes no sense. A period is the powerful piece of punctuation—its primary use is to end sentences. Do not dilute its power by having it do menial tasks such as saving three letters from a word that is short to begin with.

Following standard convention, the formal introduction of Figure 1 occurred in the text before the figure appeared. In the introduction of an illustration, using pointers such as *below* or *on the next page* is undesired. Your technical reader knows where the illustration is supposed to be placed—after the paragraph that introduces it or on the next page if not enough space exists below the paragraph. Note that you should *not* break paragraphs in a Microsoft Word document to insert an illustration. To distinguish the figure caption from the text, you should place the figure caption in a smaller typeface, as was done in Figure 1. Recommended for the line spacing of the caption is single spacing. For the caption, a nice touch is to place the name in the bold sans serif of the headings and have the caption’s text in the serif typeface of the chapter’s text. As is common in reports, the caption begins with a phrase and is followed by a sentence (or two) that explains unusual details.

Tables are presented in a different fashion. For instance, Table 1 presents an example. The heading for the table goes above and is 11 points. The heading is a single phrase. If there are unusual details, those are explained in footnotes beneath the table. Note each line skip above and below that separates each illustration and its caption (or heading) from the text.

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**Figure 1.** Title of figure in 11 point type beneath the illustration [Stanley, 2010]. Feel free to add a sentence or two to point out important features.

**Table 1.** Heading for table in 11-point type [*CRC Handbook,* 2009].

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class Name\*** | **Size**  **(number of students)** | **Rank**  **(1=most preferred, 4 least preferred)** |
| IME 1001 | 10 | 4 |
| IME 1002 | 20 | 3 |
| IME 413 | 12 | 1 |

\*Corresponding data on class name provided in Appendix XX

Below, Equation 1 displays Pythagoreans Theorem:

(1)

Following any figure or table it is important to immediately refer back to that table or figure and explain what it means for the report.

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**Discussion**

Headings are 14 points, flush left, and boldfaced. Use initial capitals. A good typeface for the heading is Arial, because it holds bold facing well. To preserve hierarchy, allot three line skips before the heading and two line skips after. At least one paragraph should follow a heading before a subheading exists. The typeface given here for the text portion of this report is Times New Roman (on a Macintosh, Times would a comparable choice). Book Antiqua would also be a professional choice, especially for the single column format of a thesis. On a Macintosh, comparable typefaces to Book Antiqua are New Century Schoolbook and Palatino. In industry, the typical line spacing for a report is single spacing.

**Conclusions**

This section summarizes the document and provides closure. The difference between this summary and the summary that you write on the title page is that the summary in the “Conclusion” is for someone who has read the report.

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**Appendix A:**

**Title of Appendix A**

Titles of appendices are 14 points, flush left, and boldfaced. Use initial capitals. A good typeface for the heading is Arial, because it holds bold facing well. To preserve hierarchy, allot three line skips before the heading and two line skips after. Illustrations in this appendix are labeled Figure A-1, Figure A-2, Table A-1, Table A-2, and so forth. Note that each appendix begins on a new page. Also note that each appendix should be introduced somewhere in the text portion of the report.

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**Appendix B:**

**Title of Appendix B**

Titles of appendices are 14 points, flush left, and boldfaced. Use initial capitals. A good typeface for the heading is Arial, because it holds bold facing well. To preserve hierarchy, allot three line skips before the heading and two line skips after. Illustrations in this appendix are labeled Figure B-1, Figure B-2, Table B-1, Table B-2, and so forth. Note that each appendix begins on a new page. Also note that each appendix should be introduced somewhere in the text portion of the report. Finally, depending on your situation, you might have more or fewer appendices.

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**References**

Chyu, M. K. (1990). The Engineers Life: A Story of Redemption. *Journal of Turbomachinery*, 112, 926-932.

Mershon, D. H. (1998, November/December). Source Code on the brain: Alien minds, human

minds. *American Scientist, 86*(6), 585.

Epsicokhan, J. (2004, February 20). *Confessions of a Industrial Engineer.* Retrieved October 12, 2009, from The Engineers World website: http://www.jammersreviews.com/articles/confessions.php

*This page is the last page in the report. Following this page is the back cover, which would be a cover stock.*

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