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What it actually fixes

Tested against 12 full-length papers. The counts are how many of those papers carried each problem. The before and after examples are written from our synthetic test papers, never from a student's work.

Paragraph and reference indentation

Found in 11 of 12 papers

APA 7 §2.24 indents every body paragraph half an inch, and reference entries use a hanging indent.

BEFORE

Body paragraphs indented one inch, because the ruler got dragged. Reference entries lined up with a tab, so nothing hangs.

AFTER

Body paragraphs at half an inch. Reference entries with a real hanging indent that survives a page break.

Citations that do not match the reference list

Found in 8 of 12 papers

APA 7 §8.4 requires every in-text citation to have a reference entry, and every entry to be cited.

BEFORE

A paper cites "(Whitfield, 2020)" on page four and "(Whitfield & Ortega, 2020)" on page one. The reference list has Whitfield. One letter, and the citation points at nobody.

AFTER

Both spellings surfaced side by side with the reference entry they should match, so the student fixes the typo instead of hunting for it.

Heading levels

Found in 8 of 12 papers

APA 7 §2.27 gives each heading level its own format, and levels run in order with none skipped.

BEFORE

Four headings in one chapter, styled four different ways, all of them just bold text. Three subsections underneath with no heading level at all.

AFTER

One Level 1 for the chapter, Level 2 on each subsection, every one a real heading style Word can build a table of contents from.

Reference formatting

Found in 7 of 12 papers

APA 7 §9.25 italicizes the journal name and the volume number, and nothing between them.

BEFORE

A reference pasted from a database reads "Journal of Comparative Nursing, 31(1), 55-80." with no italics at all. Another has the journal name, the comma and the volume all italic together.

AFTER

The journal name and the volume italic, the comma between them roman, the page range on an en dash.

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