

## APA Essay Format (First text page)

The diagram shows a page layout with the following elements and annotations:

- Page Number:** "3" is located in the top right corner.
- Title:** "REACTION TIMES IN VISUAL SEARCH TASKS" is centered at the top. A vertical double-headed arrow above it is labeled "1/2\"".
- Section Header:** "Reaction Times for Detection of Objects in Two Visual Search Tasks" is centered below the title. A vertical double-headed arrow to its right is labeled "1\"".
- Text:** The main body of the text follows. A horizontal double-headed arrow to the left of the first line of text is labeled "1/2\"".
- Text:** The second paragraph begins. A horizontal double-headed arrow to the left of its first line is labeled "1\"".
- Text:** The third paragraph begins. A horizontal double-headed arrow to the right of its first line is labeled "1\"".
- Text:** The fourth paragraph begins. A vertical double-headed arrow below its last line is labeled "1\"".
- Annotations:** Pink text on the right side of the page reads: "Full title, repeated and centered, not boldface." and "Sources cited in parentheses with author's last name and date."

Marginal annotations indicate **APA-style formatting**.

Source: Hacker/Sommers (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2014).

This sample follows the style guidelines in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. (2010).

Treisman's (1986) feature integration theory explained that single-feature searches are easy because they are automatic and that attention is required when more features are added because these items must be mentally constructed. This is demonstrated in visual search experiments. The purpose of a visual search experiment is for the participant to identify the target as fast as possible. In my visual search experiment, the target was a green circle. The hypothesis of the experiment was that the green circle would be easier to detect in a feature search than in a conjunctive search because, according to Treisman's theory, attention is needed for the latter task.

### **Method**

#### **Participants**

Fourteen Carthage College undergraduates participated. Four were male. All were 19 to 21 years old.

#### **Materials**

The experiment was conducted in an environment of each participant's choice, typically in a classroom or library, using the ZAPS online psychology laboratory (2004).

#### **Procedure**

In the feature search, orange squares were the distracters, and a green circle was the target. The conjunctive search contained distracters of orange circles, green squares, and orange squares, with the green circle as the target. For every trial under both searches, either four, 16, or 64 stimuli were present on the screen. If the green circle was present, the participant pressed the *M* key, and if it was not present the *C* key. There were 24 trials for each search, and feedback was given by the online program after each.

First-level head centered and boldface; second-level head flush left and boldface; no extra space above or below heads.

Numbers 10 and above are expressed as numerals; numbers below 10 are spelled out (except when used with specific units of measure).