Sample paper for Florida Stock Market Challenge

Ms. Riley

Team Name

Rocky Bayou Christian School

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Before getting started you will notice some things about this paper. First, everything is double-spaced. Second, margins are 1-inch wide on all sides. Third, there are several headings used throughout to separate different parts of the paper; headings are in bold. Fourth, the upper left of each page has a running head in all capital letters, and the upper right has the page number. Try to pay attention to all of these details as you look through this paper.

Now that those details are out of the way, you should know that this first part of the paper is called the “Introduction” section, yet it does not have a heading that actually says “Introduction.” Instead, the title of the paper is typed at the top of the first page (be sure to center the title, but do not put it in bold). In this section you would often start with a topic paragraph that introduces the problem under study. The importance of the topic should be pretty clear from the first paragraph or two of the Introduction. Section 2.05 of the APA manual (APA, 2010) will help give you some ideas about how to write this.

The bulk of the Introduction section is background on the topic. Imagine you are describing the project to someone who was not in out class. Do not assume the reader knows what your project was. Remember to cite your sources often in the Introduction and throughout the manuscript. Articles and books are cited the same way in the text, yet they appear different on the References page. For example, an article by Cronbach and Meehl (1955) and a book by Bandura (1986) are written with the authors’ names and the year of the publication in parentheses. However, if you look on the References page they look a little different. Remember that APA style does not use footnotes or anything like that for citations. Two other things about citations are important. When a citation is written inside parentheses (e.g., Cronbach & Meehl, 1959), an ampersand is used between authors’ names instead of the word “and.” Second, when citing an author’s work using quotations, be sure to include a page number. For example, Rogers (1961) once wrote that two important elements of a helping relationship are “genuineness and transparency” (p. 37). Notice that the page number is included here. Unless a direct quote is taken from a source, the page number is not included.

The last section of the Introduction states the purpose of the research. The purpose can usually be summarized in a few sentences.

**Participants**

 This brief section names the people that worked in the group and what job each person had.

**Procedure**

This section is going to describe the work that your group has done researching companies and how your group decided which companies to invest in.

**Results**

This section is going to describe how your team did. What was your starting and ending amount of money? Was your team successful or not?

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**Discussion**

 This is where you interpret and explain your results. Did your team perform as expected? Why or why not. Explain some of the companies that you invested in. Why did you choose these teams? What was happening that could have effected your team’s investments?

 What advice would you give to people looking to invest in the stock market? What did your team members learn?

References

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Graph 1

(include graphs that you will be putting on your poster)