Check Tools – Check for Orphan Headings
This handout explains how to ensure no single subheadings are beneath broader heading levels in Academic Writer.

APA Style® avoids orphan headings, which occur when there is a single subheading under a broader heading. For detailed information about Levels of Heading in APA Style, refer to Sections 2.26 and 2.27 of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

You can use Academic Writer to help check your work. The Check Orphan Headings tool will help you avoid using orphan headings in your paper.

To use this tool, go to the Main Menu on the left side in the Writing Center. Select the drop-down arrow next to Check to display the different Check tools. From this list, select Check Orphan Headings.

Next you will see a message prompting you to run the Check tool. This tool will search your paper for orphan heading errors and allow you to make corrections.
If the Check tool finds one or more orphan heading in your paper, you will see a message indicating that APA Style errors were found. Select Go to Paper to view orphan heading errors.

Orphan heading errors will be marked with a red flag in the Body section outline of the Main Menu.

Use the Headings drop-down menu to fix orphan heading errors. You can add a second heading at the same level as the identified heading or delete the orphan heading.
After you fix heading errors, you can run the Check Orphan Headings tool again to be sure your changes are correct. If the check tool doesn't find any errors, you will see a message indicating that there are no orphan headings in your paper.

**Contact Us**

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