A Brief Overview of APA Style

Briefly (and this is only meant to be a broad overview), APA Style consists of the following points. The paper should be typed, left-justified, double spaced, and have margins that are 1" all around. Generally, each page of typed text consists of two to three paragraphs; try to avoid pages that only have a single paragraph on them. Page numbers and headers are required.

Headings in APA 7th Edition Style look like this:

First Level
Second Level
Third level
Fourth level.
Fifth level.

Be sure to cite your sources. In the body of the paper, use the author's last name and year of publication (e.g., Grieve, 2020). The same thing goes for multiple authors (e.g., Grieve & Paquin, 2015). If there are more than three authors, you abbreviate it (Thornberry et al., 2019). Any time you cite more than one source for your information, you should alphabetize the citations by first author (e.g., Grieve, 2019; Kuhlenschmidt & Im, 2010).

The form of journal references in the reference section is like this:


If there is more than one author for the article, the form for journal references in the reference section is like this:


There are other forms for citing books:


And chapters of books:

And presentations:

Los Angeles Area Fraternity of Law Enforcement Officials 27th Annual Meeting, Brentwood, CA.

And posters:


And web pages:


If you have found a reference which you are having difficulties determining the citation, please come see me during my office hours.

**A Quick Word on Using Web Pages as Reference Material**

Just remember that any bozo can post information to the web. There are not necessarily any peer review processes in place for material that is presented on web sites. Therefore, it is imperative that you use your critical thinking skills before blindly citing information presented on the internet.