APA 6th Edition Changes: An Overview

The new APA guide has made LOTS of changes, many of which pertain to publication and graduate level research and writing. The focus here is to cover the changes for format and citation styles.

	New Rule	**Old Rule**
Format Guidelines	Use two spaces after periods and questions marks within the text of your paper. Use only one space after periods in your work cited.	One space after all periods
	Times New Roman is the only acceptable font.	Acceptable fonts used to include Courier.
	Title is positioned on the upper half of the title page	Title appeared halfway down the title page.

	Running Head:
	   *"Running head:" is followed by a short version of the title entirely in capital letters (50 characters or less.
	   *in the header on the left, in line with the page number.
	   *include the short title in all caps on every page but omit the words "Running head;"
		Appeared only on the title page.

In-Text Citations	All parenthetical citations must include a date, but the date can still be omitted in non-parenthetical citations that are repeated within a paragraph as long as it's not confusing.	Date could be omitted when citations were repeated in a single paragraph
	APA strongly discourages the use of secondary citations (aka: as cited in.) Secondary citations that *are* used no longer need to include the publication date of the original study.	Gave directions about how to cite these and took no official position.
	The words Figure, Chapter, Equation, and Table should be spelled out in their internal citations.	Used to be abbreviated
	Direct quotations from online sources without page numbers will use the abbreviation 'para.' to indicate the paragraph in which the information can be found.	Paragraphs for quotations were indicated by the paragraph symbol: ¶

References Page	All in-text citations MUST be included on the references page.	Certain references (like personal interviews) were cited only in text.
	Issue numbers are not required for journals that use continuous pagination.	Issue numbers were always included.
	Include city and state for ALL places of publication unless it's a university publisher which includes the state (Ex: University of Nebraska Press)	States could be omitted for common cities like 'Chicago.'
	List all authors for publications with up to seven authors. For works with eight or more authors, list the first six, insert an ellipsis, and then list the last author.	Listed all authors up to six.
	Use a DOI # at the end of the citation to identify items retrieved online if possible. If not, follow the old rule of including "Retrieved from" and the URL. More on DOI #s here: www.mccneb.edu/library/documents/ APA_Databases_001.pdf	Always used a URL to identify items found online.
	Include date of retrieval for online material ONLY if the data may change (ex: wiki pages)	Always include date of retrieval for online sources.

Headings: Headings have been simplified from the fifth edition.

Level One Headings are Centered, Bolded, and Capitalized

Level Two Headings are on the Left, Bolded, and Capitalized

Level three headings are indented, bolded, and not capitalized. They should be

punctuated like a sentence, and the rest of the paragraph begins immediately after the heading.

Please Note: There are several APA 6th Edition changes guides available on the Internet, but the information within them is contradictory. The content provided here has come from the guide and has been double-checked against the APA sample paper provided by the official www.apastyle.org website. Further explanation of these guidelines can be found in the Publication Manual (available at the public library) and, to a certain extent, on the website.