

## APA Key Items!

- Follow the directions including the page limits. There is not a lot of room for creativity in the assignment formats. It is a lot harder to write a short paper than a long paper.
- **Cite, cite, cite! If you don't cite then it is your opinion.** For example, "Each year 100,000 teenagers get pregnant in the United States and 75% of those pregnancies are unintentional." Oh, yeah, who says? "Many adolescent mothers were struggling in school before they got pregnant (cite) and have a greater chance of dropping out of high school because of a lack of social support" (cite).
- Plagiarism is illegal, unethical and unprofessional. Golden Rule: more than **THREE WORDS** consecutively from a source must be with quotations and a citation—otherwise, that is plagiarism.
- You should proofread the paper. It is probably best to not wait until the last five minutes before the assignment is due.
- What part of APA does your instructor care about?
  - A running head with page numbers
  - Cite correctly within the body of the paper
  - List references correctly
- **Every citation is on the reference page and everything on the reference page is cited in the body of the paper.**
- **References are SCHOLARLYLY - peer reviewed journals, texts, government websites (like the CDC) etc. NOT Wikipedia, lay websites or newspapers.**