A Brief Primer to Citing Sources in APA Style

There are two kinds of source citing that you must do in a paper: *in-text citations* and *last-page references.* Let's cover them one at a time:

In-Text Citations

Whether you use an author's exact words (*quotation)* or put the information in your own words (*summary*), you must provide an **in-text citation** to indicate where the information or words came from.

Direct Quotation
Original Text:
"Deaths from colon cancer occur twice as often in women as in men, but the media have made it seem that breast cancer is the number one killer of women."

Quotation in Your Paper:
(*APA Style*)
According to Adele (1999), "Deaths from colon cancer occur twice as often in women as in men, but the media have made it seem that breast cancer is the number one killer of women" (p. 12).

Please notice three things:

1. A phrase like "According to ..." is always used to introduce a direct quote.
2. The author's last name together with (1999) is an in-text citation and refers to a source listed alphabetically on the last page of your paper.
3. The period goes after the parenthesis at the end of the sentence.

Your Own Words
Original Text:
"Deaths from colon cancer occur twice as often in women as in men, but the media has made it seem that breast cancer is the number one killer of women."

Your Words in Your Paper:
(*APA Style*)
Although twice as many women die from colon cancer as men, the media choose to focus on breast cancer as the main threat to women (Adele, 1999).

Not a Book? Not a Problem
The example in-text citations above are for a book. Increasingly, today's research papers include more electronic sources than print ones. No problem. The same principles apply.

No Author? Not a Problem
If you source you are using does not list an author, simply use the title of the source inside the parentheses. If the title is more than five words, abbreviate it.

No APA Style Manual? Not a Problem
There are citation machines and other software that provide the correct format for your sources automatically. See the links below.

Last Page References
Since you're using APA, this last page is called "References"--a word which is centered on the last page.

You do not need to know anything else. Citation machines and other software automatically produce the correct format for in-text citations and for entries on the "References" page. All you have to know is the kind of source you used (book, web site, magazine). Then use the citation machines.

Automatic APA Citations
Today there is software that will automatically format sources for in-text citations and your references page. The "Citation Machine" is free:

http://www.citationmachine.net
(Note: If you use a source from the school's online library, you must always choose "Work from a subscription service" format).

Other good citation machines include:

http://www.studentabc.com/citation_machine
(Note: If you use a source from the school's online library, you must always choose "Article from a database or subscription" format).

http://webapps.calvin.edu/knightcite/index.php
(Note: If you use a source from the school's online library, you must choose "yes" to the question "Was the resource found using a database?"