Grading Codes for the APA Research Paper

Part One – Title Page

1A. Title page meets APA standards
1B. Title page is incorrect or missing. (See Owl Purdue page or student examples).
1BX. Page number should be in the upper right corner.
1BY. Remove header. No header in the 7th edition student version title page.

Part Two – Abstract

2A. Abstract page meets APA standards.
2B. Abstract page is incorrect or missing. (See Owl Purdue page).
2BW. Avoid using "I" in the abstract. If you must use a pronoun, use "we" instead. Additionally, you should remove all data citations. The abstract should be in your own words.
2BX. The word Abstract should be centered and bold.
2BY. Do not indent the first line of the abstract.
2BZ. Too short; abstract should be 150 to 250 words.

Part Three – Main Body

Introduction / Thesis Statement

3A. Your choice of epigraph is appropriate and grabs the reader's attention.
3B. Introduction is excellent; context is provided, it is focused on the question, and your thesis is clear and concise.
3C. Quotations and anecdotes in the introduction are appropriate and relevant to the subject.
3D. Introduction needs improvement; initial discussion does not include a thesis.
3E. Thesis is not clear and / or does not promote a unifying idea or structure.
3F. Introduction is missing or avoids answering the question.
3G. Introduction has too many spelling errors and mistakes in grammar.
3H. The title on page 3 should match your paper title and be centered and bold.

Body

4A. Paragraphs within the body show ample data, proof, and evidence such as statistics and authoritative research.
4B. Formatting and paragraphs exhibit proper mix of direct quotes and paraphrasing with good transitions between paragraphs.
4C. Essay has lots of original research.
4D. In-text citations are missing and / or not properly positioned or incorrectly constructed (See Owl Purdue page).
4E. Remove this citation. If all of your data in the paragraph comes from just one source, just put a citation at the end of the paragraph or sentence.
4F. No first names of authors in text or citations; last name plus year only. [ex. (Smith, 2020)]
4G. Do not use contractions in the text; only in direct quotes.
4H. This in-text citation does not appear on the Reference page. It definitely needs to.
4I. Avoid including the name of the article or book in the text. That information is on the references page at the end of the essay.
4J. Transitions between paragraphs need improvement; do not start paragraphs with quotations.
4K. Overuse of direct quotes and/or missing quotation marks. This is plagiarism. Use caution.
4L. Block quotes are excessive and / or improperly formatted.
4M. Body is randomly constructed and not internally consistent.
4N. Read body paragraphs OUT LOUD to yourself to improve grammar.
4O. De-gender your data references (research) whenever possible.
4P. Remove "I" from the body of text. Use "I" sparingly in the intro or conclusion only.
4Q. The transition between text and direct quotes is awkward or grammatically incorrect.
4R. Begin a new paragraph here.
4S. Avoid the use of "this quote means" or "this quote explains." Just don't ever say "this quote."

4T. Do not leave blank spaces. All lines should be double spaced including between headings.
4U. These sentences do not constitute a full paragraph. Pull this up to the above text or connect to the text below (depending on where these sentences link up) to create a full paragraph.
4V. Indent.
4W. This is a Level 2 heading. Follow the instructions on the link for proper formatting of a Level 2 heading.
4X. This is a Level 3 heading. Follow the instructions on the link for proper formatting of a Level 3 heading.
4Y. When dealing with in-text citations that do not have an author, use the first two words in the title of the article, followed by three dots, and then the year of publication. The citation does not require quotation marks. Example: Article title - "Here's how to do articles correctly." should look like this: (Here's how...2021)

Conclusion

5A. Conclusion is well-organized, thoughtful, and has a unifying idea or theme.
5B. Conclusion shows a creative or unique synthesis of a complicated topic.
5C. Conclusion is not sufficient and does not properly summarize your thesis.
5D. Conclusion is missing! This is totally unacceptable on a research paper.
5E. Push analysis to the bottom of page 14. Do not add more to the conclusion; just do more data analysis.
5F. Never start a conclusion by saying "In conclusion,"
5G. The word Conclusion is a Level 1 heading. It should be centered, bold, not italicized and with no colons.

Part Four – References Page

6A. Reference page meets APA standards.
6B. Reference page is incorrect or missing (See Owl Purdue page or student example).
6C. Always include at least 2 – 3 books in a research paper.
6D. Article and book titles should be lower case except for the first word and proper nouns. Do not use quotation marks for article titles.
6E. DO italicize book titles and titles of journals, magazines, and website names. DO NOT italicize author names, titles of articles, or website URL addresses.
6F. No first names on reference page, first initial only.
6G. You have this backward. The first line should not be indented. Only the second and third (or more) lines should be indented after the first. All lines on the References page should be double-spaced.
6H. Make sure to indent all lines after the first line of a citation. Indentation should be at .5
6I. All entries should be in alphabetical order by author last name. Entries with no author should be included alphabetically by the first letter of the first word in the article or website title.
6J. This is a Level 1 heading. The word References should be bold and centered. You should NOT write "Bibliography" or "Works Cited" or "Citations" or "Resources" as those are used for different styles of citation.
6K. URL address needs be added and / or should be in blue hyperlink.
6L. Remove "Retrieved" and "Retrieved from" and the dates from ALL URL addresses.
6M. All lines on the References page should be double spaced with the second and third lines indented .5 inches from the first line.
6N. If there is no author for the citation, start the citation with the title of the article and alphabetize the reference using the first letter of the first word in the article title example. In the in-text citation use the first two words of the article plus the year if available. If not, use n.d. for "no date."
6O. The date should come after the author's name and before the title of the article or book. Start with the year, then month/day if available, and n.d. if there is no date.

Overall Research Paper

7A. Paper is superb in just about every respect; university-level work.
7B. Paper is pretty solid, but you will need to fix all APA formatting errors for a higher grade.
7C. Paper does not meet the required length for an "A" grade.
7D. Paper is below what is expected in a college student; continue to work on your writing skills; consider extra writing classes.