How to stop EndNote from placing long URLs in the bibliography

Some citations styles, including APA, technically require the use of a journal article’s DOI number as part of the citation. If the DOI number is not available, APA dictates that the URL should be inserted instead. For some journal articles, this process will sometimes produce several long lines of URL in the bibliography, underlined and in blue.

You can turn this process off by changing a setting in your output style. Here’s how:

1. First, be sure you have EndNote set to the correct citation style, such as APA 6th.
2. Next, click on Edit from the top menu bar, then hover over Output Styles and (in the next pop-up menu), choose Edit “APA 6th” (or whatever your citation style).
3. In the next box, locate the Bibliography heading, then below it, click on Field Substitutions.
4. Uncheck the box that reads “If the DOI field is empty, use:”

5. Close out of this window. EndNote will prompt you to save the style. You can keep the style’s original name if you like, which will overwrite the original style settings for this name, or you can give the style a new name and keep the original as a backup.
6. If you change the name of the style, be sure to change to this new style when you go back to your Word document.
7. Finally, click on the Update button ( ) in your EndNote toolbar to bring in your changes.