

In Text Citation: A Guide

In text citation is something that is easy to overlook but essential to your college level writing. Here are some of the general ways in which to use in text citations:

Paraphrasing/Summarizing: Your reference goes before the end punctuation:

Landow's theories further popularized hypertext fiction with academics (Rettberg 65).

Quotations run in with the text: Your citation goes after the quotation but before the end punctuation:

According to Walker, "Coover's writing is a definitive example of postmodernism" (265).

Dena's theories about gaming, "detailed and important," according to Hayles will be discussed in the new anthology of works about her (56).

Quotations set off from the text: If you are quoting more than four lines of prose or three lines of poetry (remember to indent twice), also known as a "block quote," your reference goes after the punctuation:

According to him, this concern is shared by the ELO:

The Electronic Literature Organization is working to deal with this growing concern. In *Acid-Free Bits: Recommendations for Long-Lasting Electronic Literature and Born-Again Bits: A Framework for Migrating Electronic Literature*, Montfort, Wardrip-Fruin, and others offer a variety of solutions for keeping Elit readable. Their recommendations include creating work using open source programs and software, making work for multiple platforms, and supplying comments for code. (6)

Maintain text form: Always maintain the spelling, punctuation, and capitalization exactly as it is in a text when you are quoting. For example, if I was quoting from the online edition of the *American Weekly Mercury* (<http://caxton.stockton.edu/AWM/>) I helped create as an undergraduate, I would leave the seemingly random capitalization where they are:

Yesterday the Commissioners of the Navy gave Notice to the Merchants in the Carolina Trade, that they were ready to contract with them, for carrying over a large Quantity of Stores to that Colony, for his Majesty's Service (AWM 1).

Please refer to 414-417 in Wadsworth for more specific sample references you may encounter in your writing. Later in the semester we will spend an entire lecture on more details about citation. I hope this is helpful.