

In-Text Documentation Part 1

If you are not comfortable with your in-text documentation skills, it might be smart to approach it in a two-part manner. We are going to use in-text documentation every time we use a note card and then we will go back and remove the unnecessary in-text documentations. Remember to put the end mark punctuation after the in-text.

First of all, what is in-text documentation?

It is a way of giving credit to your sources inside your paper. You will have a works cited page where all of your sources are listed in proper MLA format and you will have little parenthetical inserts in your paper that refers back to the works cited page.

Sounds hard!

It's not. In fact, here is how easy it is. Take out your source cards.

Remember having to reverse indent on the MLA? The reason is that we want the first word of the source sticking out is because this is the word that appears in our in-text. If my source is a web page, all I will use is the first word in parenthesis.

Sample note card

D

Taylor, Nick. "Fox vs. Marvel ...
FIGHT!" Marvel 616 Politics.
3 Nov. 2014. www.them6p.com/2014/11/03/fox-vs-marvel-fight/. Accessed 7
Nov. 2014.

Sample passage in a student paper

Everyone would like to see Wolverine appear in an Avengers movie, but that will not happen. In the 1990s, Marvel sold the movie rights for their characters to studios like Fox, Sony, and New Line. Fox owns the rights to Wolverine and all X-Men, so Marvel cannot use him, or most other mutants in their movies (Taylor).

What if there are TWO authors with the same last name? Let's say I have a web site from **Nick Taylor** and a different one from **Frederick Taylor**.

So Marvel cannot use him, or most other mutants in their movies (N. Taylor).
However, Sony and Fox had a deal that almost had Wolverine interact with Spider-Man, but that fell through (F. Taylor).

What if there is no author? Just use the first word of the title in the proper punctuation.

Sample note card

F

"Wonder Woman." Wikipedia.
Wikimedia Foundation, 6
Nov. 2014. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonder_Woman.
Accessed 10 Nov. 2014.

Sample passage in a student paper

William Marston, creator of Wonder Woman, also created the polygraph, better known as the lie detector, which inspired his creation of her magic lasso that prevents people from lying while tied up ("Wonder").

If the first word is a numeral or an article - ("10 Reasons") ("The Facts")

If the source is a book, magazine, or any print source with a page number, or any PDF scan that has page numbers, the page number must be included in the in-text.

Sample note card

A

Salisbury, Mark. Writers on Comics Scriptwriting. Titan, 1999.

Sample passage in a student paper

Renowned writer Devon Grayson first began to superhero stories when she was young and found *Batman: The Animated Series* while searching for another show. She had barely read any comic books at all until she was in her twenties (Salisbury 110).

The only problem comes in when we have two sources that have the same first word. In that case you use the first word followed by a comma and the next differing word.

Sample note cards

B

McCloud, Scott. Understanding Comics. Kitchen Sink Press, 1993.

H

McCloud, Scott. Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga, and Graphic Novels. Harper, 2006.

Sample passage in a student paper

Often, what happens in the gutter allows the reader to use the imagination and is more effective than what is shown in the actual art. “To kill a man between the panels is to condemn him to a thousand deaths” (McCloud, Understanding 69).

Now – Make things easier on you

Take your source cards and on the bottom of the card, write the in-text as it should appear when that source is used. Pay attention to sources that have the same first word as other sources. If an in-text citation would have a page number in it, write a # so that you will remember to include the page number when using it in the actual paper.

B

McCloud, Scott. Understanding Comics. Kitchen Sink Press, 1993.

(McCloud, Understanding #)