**In-text Citations: The Basics**

**If you know the author, then you have 2 choices:**

Use the author’s name in the sentence and then include the page number in

parenthesis at the end. Or you can put the author’s last name and page

number in parenthesis at the end of the information you are citing. For example:

Theune describes writing as a challenging process requiring a great deal

of attention to detail (36).

**OR**

Writing is a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to

detail (Theune 36).

**For a work with two to three authors, do the same as above, but list all of the**

**authors:**

Writing is a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to

detail (Theune, Gierman, and Cargen 36).

**If there are more than 3 authors, provide the first author’s last name and then use**

**et al. (You can use all authors’ names if you choose). For example:**

Writing is a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to

detail (Theune et al. 36).

**OR**

Theune et al. describe writing as a challenging process requiring a great

deal of attention to detail (36).

**If you do not know the author’s name**, then use a shortened title of the work in

quotation marks if it is a shorter work or italicized if it is a longer work and then

the page number. For example:

There are so many examples of the challenges faced by today’s teens

that have access to so much technology. One problem is information

overload (“21st Century Teens” 5).

**For other variations, please check the Purdue Owl website citing page:**

[**http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/**](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/)