

5 Source code-referencing the right way

Hi everyone,

Today we're talking about referencing. Yes, I know - it might not sound like the most exciting topic, but think of it like crediting the developers of game mods or sharing the source of a game strategy. It's about giving credit where it's due.

When you start on a piece of work, referencing can feel a bit overwhelming. Harvard style, citations, bibliographies - it's like learning a new game's controls and mechanics. But once you get the basics down, it becomes second nature.

Let's break down what you need to know:

First up - why do we even need to reference? Simple really. When you're using someone else's ideas or research, you need to show where you found them. It's like building on existing game strategies - you acknowledge who came up with the original plan.

There are different referencing styles, but we use Harvard here at the College of Esports. Think of it as the standard format, like how most games have standard controls. The basics are pretty straightforward - author's surname, year of publication, and page number if you're quoting directly.

Here's something that catches people out - you need to reference EVERYTHING you use from other sources. Books, journal articles, websites, videos - even if you're just explaining someone's ideas in your own words. Missing references is an easy way to lose marks.

The bibliography at the end of your work is like the credits at the end of a game - everything needs to be there and in the right format. Books, articles, websites - each type of source has its own way of being listed. We have guides and your tutors can help you too if you need to know more.

One really useful tip - start your bibliography as you go along. Every time you use a source, add it to your list straight away. Trust me, trying to find all your sources the night before submission is not fun.

What about online sources? Yes, you can use them, but be selective. A peer-reviewed journal article is like verified game data. A random website? Maybe not so reliable. Your tutors will want to see you're using quality sources.

Remember - referencing isn't about trying to catch you out. It's about showing you know how to find and use good information, and giving credit to the people whose work you're building on.