Deakin’s Writing Mentor Video 1
Who takes responsibility?
Division of Student Life, Deakin University

Scenario
A student is seeking help with referencing for an assignment. The video shows the Writing Mentor taking two different approaches to help the student.

Pre-viewing discussion
1. What should a Writing Mentor’s role be when helping a student with referencing?
2. What are some techniques a Writing Mentor could use to ensure they don’t ‘take over’ a student’s assignment?

Approach 1
3. What are some strengths in the approach taken by the Writing Mentor? Why do you think these are strengths?
4. What are some weaknesses in the approach taken by the Writing Mentor? Why do you think these are weaknesses?
5. How does the Writing Mentor try to make the student feel at ease?
6. Who does most of the talking?
7. Overall, what role(s) is the Writing Mentor taking on? Give reasons for your choice(s).
8. How might this affect the student’s and the Writing Mentor’s perception of who is responsible for the paper?

Approach 2
9. What are some strengths in the approach taken by the Writing Mentor? Why do you think these are strengths?
10. What are some weaknesses in the approach taken by the Writing Mentor? Why do you think these are weaknesses?
11. How does the Writing Mentor try to make the student feel at ease?
12. Who does most of the talking?
13. Overall, what role(s) is the Writing Mentor taking on? Give reasons for your choice(s).
14. How might this affect the student’s and the Writing Mentor’s perception of who is responsible for the paper?

Post-viewing discussion
How are some of Deakin’s Best Practices for Writing Mentors illustrated (or not) in these two approaches? Give specific examples to explain your reasoning.
Video Script

**Approach 1**

Hi, I’m Joelle.
I’m Teddy.
Have a seat.
Thank you.
How can I help you today, Teddy?
Um, I’m a first year student, and this is my first time writing an assignment and I’m just not sure how to do referencing. Umm my friends helped me with it and I’m just not sure how they do it. And they said that Harvard was the official Deakin referencing style and I’m just not sure what that is.
Oh. OK. Do you have your assignment guidelines with you?
Yeah yeah it’s over here.
I’ll have a look. So, you need to use the Harvard style for this one. Is that your assignment?
Yeah yeah that’s my assignment
OK. Let’s have a look. OK, so your in-text citations are wrong because you haven’t included the year. But don’t worry, I’ll fix it for you.
Alright
Um... so here, you need to write the author and then the year.
Ohhh
OK? And...Oh for example this one you will need to change that as well, because when you have four authors then you don’t mention all of their names. You just have to mention the first one. So I’ll write it for you. So here it will be ah—and all, the year and page number. Here. Now let’s have a look at your reference list, OK? OK here as well we need to change it. So you will have to write the family name first.
OK
And then the first letter of the first name, the year, title of the article, the name of the journal, volume number, and page.
Ahhh ok...
So that’s it. That’s referencing.
So I just put in all the information for each party.
Yes, exactly.
OK
If you have any more questions or if you have another assignment you can come back and I’ll help you again.
Oh, thank you so much.
That’s alright.
Bye.
Bye
Hi, I’m Joelle.
I’m Teddy.
Have a seat.
Thank you.
How can I help you today, Teddy?
Um, I’m a first year student and this is my first time writing an assignment and I’m just having trouble with referencing, like I don’t know how to do it. Um my friends helped me but I’m not sure how they did it and it’s not clear to me. And they said that Harvard was the official Deakin referencing style and just I don’t know what that means.

OK. So have you heard about referencing in your classes or maybe in one of your seminars?
Ummm…I vaguely remember hearing in my class that about a guide?
Yeah, like a referencing guide?
Yeah, yeah.

Yeah? Do you know where we can find it?
Ummm… I think in the library or oh my lecturer said um you can use um find on the Deakin website as well.
Yes, that’s a brilliant idea. I have my laptop here. Would you like to use it to check whether you can find anything on the website?
Yeah, yeah sure. Yeah so I’ll just find referencing. Oh yeah, there is a guide.
That’s great. Does it say anything about the official referencing style?
Ummm…it says here some units, courses and disciplines use variations of the styles described here and we should always check with the unit guide or with academic staff to determine the recommended referencing style for each of the units, so no I don’t think there’s an official referencing style.

OK
But there’s so many different ones here.
Do you have your assignment guidelines with you? Maybe we could check there.
Ummm…so criteria…Oh yeah it says here that the required referencing style for this assignment is Harvard style.
Yep.
Oh yeah it’s Harvard style here.
How does this style work?
Ummm…it says that in text citations go in the body of the paper and a reference list goes at the end of the paper.

OK. Is that what you did with your friends?
Yeah I think so but I’m not sure how they do it, so…

OK
So we’ll use an example from your assignment.

OK
What I want you to do is highlight one of your references and then check it in the guide and see whether you followed the guidelines.

OK so what can we use…we will just use this one.

OK