

chicago citation examples for ibid

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected style guide that provides comprehensive guidelines for academic writing and publishing. For researchers and students working with sources, understanding the intricacies of CMOS citation, particularly the use of "ibid.," is crucial for academic integrity and clarity. This article delves deep into Chicago citation examples for ibid, offering detailed explanations and practical illustrations to demystify its application. We will explore the fundamental principles of ibid, its correct usage in both footnotes and endnotes, common pitfalls to avoid, and how to handle variations and consecutive citations. Mastering ibid ensures your bibliography is precise and your scholarly work adheres to the highest standards of academic convention.

Table of Contents

- Understanding "Ibid." in Chicago Style
- Basic "Ibid." Usage with Footnotes and Endnotes
- Variations of "Ibid."
- When Not to Use "Ibid."
- Examples of "Ibid." in Practice
- Common Mistakes with "Ibid."

Understanding "Ibid." in Chicago Style

The term "ibid." is an abbreviation derived from the Latin word "ibīdem," meaning "in the same place." In Chicago style, and many other citation systems, it serves as a shorthand to refer to the immediately preceding source cited in a footnote or endnote. Its primary function is to reduce redundancy, making notes more concise and easier to read when citing the same work multiple times consecutively. This system is particularly beneficial in lengthy academic papers, dissertations, and books where a single source might be referenced repeatedly. Proper use of "ibid." is a hallmark of meticulous scholarship.

The Purpose and Benefit of Using "Ibid."

The main purpose of using "ibid." is to streamline the citation process and enhance the readability of scholarly texts. When a researcher has just cited a particular book or article, and then needs to cite it again in the immediate next note (or subsequent notes without an intervening citation), "ibid." signals to the reader that the source remains the same. This avoids the need to repeat the full bibliographic information every single time, saving space and preventing the notes from becoming overly cumbersome. It's a practical tool for maintaining elegance and efficiency in academic documentation.

Footnotes vs. Endnotes and "Ibid."

Whether you are using footnotes or endnotes, the principles for employing "ibid." remain largely consistent. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation occurs, while endnotes are collected at the end of the document. In either system, if note 5 cites a source, and note 6 refers to the exact same source without any other intervening citation, note 6 would simply use "Ibid." If note 7 also refers to the same source, it would again be "Ibid." The distinction comes into play when page numbers or other specific locations change.

Basic "Ibid." Usage with Footnotes and Endnotes

The fundamental rule for "ibid." is straightforward: it refers to the immediately preceding note. If the preceding note cites a specific source, and the current note cites that same source, you can use "ibid." This is the most common and basic application. However, it's essential to remember that "ibid." alone indicates the same source and the same page number as the previous note. If the page number differs, specific formatting is required.

Citing the Same Source and Same Page

When a subsequent note refers to the exact same source and the exact same page as the immediately preceding note, "ibid." is used by itself. This is the most concise form of the citation. For example, if note 3 cites a book by Smith on page 45, and note 4 also refers to Smith's book on page 45, note 4 would simply be "Ibid." This is the most direct application of the "in the same place" meaning.

Citing the Same Source but a Different Page

If a subsequent note refers to the same source as the immediately preceding note, but a different page, you must include the new page number. This is indicated by placing the page number after "Ibid." For instance, if note 7 cites Jones's article on page 12, and note 8 refers to the same Jones article but on page 15, note 8 would be written as "Ibid., 15." This clearly distinguishes the location within the source while still acknowledging its identity.

Variations of "Ibid."

While "ibid." is primarily used for consecutive citations, there are nuances and variations in its application, particularly when the immediately preceding note does not contain the relevant source or when multiple citations are involved. Understanding these variations ensures accurate referencing.

Using "Ibid." with a Different Author or Work

It is crucial to reiterate that "ibid." can only be used if the immediately preceding note has cited the exact same work. If the previous note cited a different author, or even a different work by the same author, you cannot use "ibid." In such cases, you must provide a shortened version of the title or the full bibliographic information, depending on the context and previous citations.

Consecutive Notes Referencing the Same Source (Beyond Two Notes)

If a source is cited in note 10, and then again in note 11, and then again in note 12 (all consecutively), the progression would be:

Note 10: [Full citation for the source].

Note 11: Ibid.

Note 12: Ibid.

However, if note 13 then cites a different source, and note 14 refers back to the source from note 10 and 11, you would then need to use a shortened title (or full citation if no shortened title has been established). The rule of "immediately preceding" is paramount.

When Not to Use "Ibid."

The rule of "immediately preceding" is the most critical limitation on the use of "ibid." If any other citation, or even a brief explanatory note that is not a citation, intervenes between two references to the same source, "ibid." becomes inappropriate. In such scenarios, you must revert to a shortened form of the citation.

Intervening Citations

If note 15 cites Smith, *The History of Chicago*, p. 100, and note 16 cites Johnson, *Urban Development*, p. 50, and then note 17 refers back to Smith's *The History of Chicago*, you cannot use "Ibid." to refer to Smith. Instead, you would use a shortened title, such as Smith, *History of Chicago*, p. 110. The intervening citation by Johnson breaks the consecutive chain required for "ibid."

Non-Bibliographic Notes

Similarly, if note 20 contains a citation, and note 21 is a parenthetical comment or an explanatory aside that does not include a bibliographic reference, and note 22 refers to the same source as note 20, "ibid." is not applicable for note 22. The non-bibliographic note also breaks the consecutive requirement.

Examples of "Ibid." in Practice

Illustrative examples are the most effective way to solidify understanding of "ibid." usage. Let's consider a few scenarios involving footnotes.

Scenario 1: Simple Consecutive Citation

Let's assume the first mention of a source is in footnote 7.

Footnote 7: Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), 101.

Footnote 8: Ibid., 105.
(This refers to Pollan's book on page 105.)

Footnote 9: Ibid.
(This refers to Pollan's book on page 105, the same page as footnote 8.)

Scenario 2: Interrupted Consecutive Citation

Footnote 10: Eleanor M. Green, *Chicago Architecture: A Guide to the City's Buildings* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015), 30.

Footnote 11: Ibid., 32.
(This refers to Green's book on page 32.)

Footnote 12: Sarah V. Lewis, *The L Train Chronicles* (New York: Transit Books, 2018), 75.
(An intervening citation. Note the change in author and title.)

Footnote 13: Green, *Chicago Architecture*, 40.
(Cannot use "Ibid." here because of the intervening citation in note 12. A shortened title is used.)

Common Mistakes with "Ibid."

Despite its apparent simplicity, the use of "ibid." can lead to errors if not applied carefully. Understanding these common mistakes can help prevent them.

Overuse of "Ibid."

One of the most frequent errors is overusing "ibid." when the immediately preceding note does not refer to the same source. This happens when a writer mistakenly assumes "ibid."

refers to the last cited source in general, rather than the source in the immediately preceding note. Always double-check the previous note.

Using "Ibid." After a Different Source or Non-Citation Note

As discussed earlier, any intervening citation, or even a simple non-bibliographic note, invalidates the use of "ibid." for the subsequent reference. Writers often forget this rule when a complex series of notes is involved, leading to inaccurate citations.

Incorrect Page Numbering with "Ibid."

Another mistake is omitting the page number when it has changed from the immediately preceding note, or incorrectly including it when the page is the same. While "Ibid." alone implies the same page, "Ibid., 15" clearly indicates a different page. Precision is key.

Conclusion

Navigating the nuances of Chicago style citation, particularly the use of "ibid.," is essential for producing clear, accurate, and academically sound work. By understanding that "ibid." signifies the immediately preceding source and applying it judiciously with attention to page numbers and intervening citations, writers can significantly enhance the conciseness and professionalism of their footnotes and endnotes. Consistent practice and careful review are the best tools for mastering this aspect of academic writing.

FAQ

Q: When can I use "Ibid." in my Chicago style citations?

A: You can use "Ibid." when the source you are citing in the current note is the exact same source as the one cited in the immediately preceding note. This applies to both footnotes and endnotes.

Q: What is the difference between using "Ibid." alone and "Ibid., [page number]"?

A: "Ibid." used alone signifies that you are referencing the exact same source and the exact same page number as the immediately preceding note. "Ibid., [page number]" signifies that you are referencing the same source, but a different page number than the immediately preceding note.

Q: Can I use "Ibid." if there is another citation between my two references to the same source?

A: No, you cannot. "Ibid." can only be used if the citation immediately precedes the current note. If any other citation or even a non-bibliographic note intervenes, you must use a shortened form of the title.

Q: What if I need to cite a different work by the same author in the next note? Can I use "Ibid."?

A: No. "Ibid." specifically refers to the same work as the immediately preceding note. If the author is the same but the work is different, you must use a shortened title for the new work.

Q: Is "Ibid." considered a formal abbreviation in academic writing?

A: Yes, "Ibid." is a standard and accepted abbreviation in academic writing when following the conventions of the Chicago Manual of Style or similar citation styles that permit its use.

Q: How do I handle citing a source for the first time and then the second time if it's the same page?

A: For the first citation, you would provide the full bibliographic information in the note. For the second citation, if it's the same source and same page, and immediately follows the first, you would use "Ibid."

Q: Does the use of "Ibid." change depending on whether I'm using footnotes or endnotes?

A: The fundamental principle of using "Ibid." to refer to the immediately preceding citation remains the same for both footnotes and endnotes. The placement of the notes differs, but the logic of "ibid." does not.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a chapter from a book using "Ibid."?

A: If you cite a chapter from a book in note 15, and then need to cite the same chapter in note 16, you would use "Ibid." If note 16 refers to the same chapter but a different page, you would use "Ibid., [page number]." If note 16 refers to a different chapter or a different book, "Ibid." would not be appropriate.

Chicago Citation Examples For Ibid

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