

chicago citation examples for speeches

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides clear guidelines for citing various sources, and understanding how to properly cite speeches is crucial for academic integrity and clarity. This comprehensive guide offers detailed Chicago citation examples for speeches, covering both published and unpublished oral presentations, as well as digital recordings. We will explore the nuances of citing speeches delivered in person, those found in collections, and even impromptu remarks. Properly formatted citations ensure your audience can locate and verify the information you present, enhancing the credibility of your work. Whether you are citing a historical address or a contemporary lecture, mastering these Chicago citation examples for speeches is an essential skill for any researcher or writer.

Table of Contents

- Understanding the Fundamentals of Citing Speeches in Chicago Style
- Citing Unpublished Speeches in Chicago Style
- Citing Published Speeches in Chicago Style
- Citing Speeches from Collections in Chicago Style
- Citing Recorded Speeches (Audio/Video) in Chicago Style
- Footnotes vs. Endnotes for Speech Citations
- Common Pitfalls in Citing Speeches

Understanding the Fundamentals of Citing Speeches in Chicago Style

Chicago style, also known as the Notes-Bibliography system, requires meticulous attention to detail when citing any source, and speeches are no exception. The core principle is to provide enough information for your reader to identify and retrieve the original speech. This typically involves the speaker's name, the title of the speech (if any), the context in which it was delivered, and the date. The specific format will vary depending on whether the speech is published, unpublished, or recorded.

When dealing with unpublished speeches, the primary challenge is often the lack of a widely accessible publication. Therefore, the citation must focus on the circumstances of its delivery, including the event, location, and date. For published speeches, the citation will more closely resemble that of other published works, referencing the book or journal in which it appears. Recorded speeches, whether audio or video, require information about the medium and its accessibility. Adhering to these distinctions is key to accurate Chicago citation examples for speeches.

Citing Unpublished Speeches in Chicago Style

Unpublished speeches present a unique set of challenges because they are not readily available for consultation by your readers. The citation must therefore be as descriptive as possible, providing all necessary details to identify the specific instance of the speech. This includes the speaker's full name,

the title of the speech (if it has one), the name of the event where it was delivered, the location, and the exact date of delivery. If the speech was transcribed or recorded personally, you may need to indicate that as well.

Speeches Delivered in Person (Personal Knowledge)

When you have personally heard a speech and are citing it from memory or personal notes, the citation format is slightly different. It's important to note that citing personal knowledge should be done sparingly in academic writing, as it is not verifiable by the reader. However, if necessary, you would include the speaker's name, the approximate date, and the context (e.g., a lecture, a private conversation).

For example, in a footnote:

1. Address by Jane Doe, personal communication, October 26, 2023.

In a bibliography, this type of citation is generally omitted unless it's a critical part of your argument and has been clearly explained in your text.

Speeches Available in Archives or Personal Papers

If an unpublished speech is housed in an archive or a collection of personal papers, the citation needs to reflect this. You will need to identify the collection and the specific item within it. This includes the speaker's name, the title of the speech, the date of the speech, and the archival collection details, including the repository name and location.

In a footnote:

1. John Smith, "The Future of Urban Planning" (unpublished speech, address to the City Council, Chicago, IL, April 15, 1998), John Smith Papers, Box 3, Folder 5, University Archives, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

In a bibliography:

1. Smith, John. "The Future of Urban Planning." Unpublished speech, address to the City Council, Chicago, IL, April 15, 1998. John Smith Papers, Box 3, Folder 5, University Archives, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Citing Published Speeches in Chicago Style

Published speeches are generally easier to cite because they have a more stable and accessible form. The citation will depend on where the speech has been published, whether it's a standalone publication, a chapter in a book, or an article in a journal. The goal is to provide enough information for your reader to locate the publication itself.

Speeches Published as Standalone Works

If a speech has been published as its own book or pamphlet, the citation will resemble that of a book. This includes the speaker's name, the title of the speech, the publisher, and the year of publication. The title of the speech should be italicized.

In a footnote:

1. Martin Luther King Jr., *I Have a Dream* (New York: HarperCollins, 1963).

In a bibliography:

1. King Jr., Martin Luther. *I Have a Dream*. New York: HarperCollins, 1963.

Speeches Published in Academic Journals

When a speech is published in an academic journal, it is treated as an article. The citation will include the speaker's name, the title of the speech (in quotation marks), the journal title (italicized), the volume and issue numbers, the year, and the page range. It is important to note if the speech was originally delivered on a specific date, which can be included in parentheses after the title.

In a footnote:

1. Susan B. Anthony, "On Women's Right to Vote" (1873), in *Selected Speeches of Susan B. Anthony*, ed. Jane Doe (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005), 45-52.

In a bibliography:

1. Anthony, Susan B. "On Women's Right to Vote" (1873). In *Selected Speeches of Susan B. Anthony*, edited by Jane Doe, 45–52. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005.

Citing Speeches from Collections in Chicago Style

Many significant speeches are collected and published in anthologies or edited volumes. When citing a speech from such a collection, you need to cite both the individual speech and the collection it appears in. The Chicago style requires you to identify the author of the speech, the title of the speech, the title of the collection, the editor(s) of the collection, publication information for the collection, and the page numbers for the speech within the collection.

In a footnote:

1. Winston Churchill, "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" (June 4, 1940), in *Speeches That Shaped History*, ed. Robert Johnson (London: Penguin Books, 2010), 112.

In a bibliography:

1. Churchill, Winston. "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" (June 4, 1940). In *Speeches That Shaped History*, edited by Robert Johnson, 112. London: Penguin Books, 2010.

It is crucial to differentiate between the author of the speech and the editor of the collection. The speech title is typically in quotation marks, while the collection title is italicized. If the speech has a specific delivery date that is relevant, it is often included in parentheses following the speech title.

Citing Recorded Speeches (Audio/Video) in Chicago Style

With the advent of digital media, citing recorded speeches is increasingly common. This includes audio recordings (podcasts, CDs) and video recordings (YouTube, documentaries). The citation must include information about the speaker, the title of the speech (if available), the title of the recording or program, the producer or director, the recording company or platform, the date of recording or release, and the format or URL.

Audio Recordings

For audio recordings, such as lectures on CD or podcast episodes featuring speeches, the citation should include the speaker, the title of the speech, the title of the album or podcast, the performing artist or host, the record label or publisher, and the year. If it's a specific track, you might include that as well.

In a footnote:

1. Barack Obama, "A More Perfect Union" (speech delivered in Philadelphia, PA, March 18, 2008), MP3, recorded March 18, 2008, accessed October 26, 2023, <http://www.barackobama.com/speeches/a-more-perfect-union>.

In a bibliography:

1. Obama, Barack. "A More Perfect Union." Speech delivered in Philadelphia, PA, March 18, 2008. MP3. Recorded March 18, 2008. Accessed October 26, 2023. <http://www.barackobama.com/speeches/a-more-perfect-union>.

Video Recordings

For video recordings, like speeches posted on YouTube or included in a documentary, the citation format will be similar. You'll need the speaker, title of the speech, title of the video, uploader or creator, platform, date of upload or release, and the URL. For documentaries, include the director and year of the film.

In a footnote:

1. Greta Thunberg, "How Dare You!" (speech at the UN Climate Action Summit, New York, NY, September 23, 2019), video, uploaded September 24, 2019, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2wtfc5XGkc>.

In a bibliography:

1. Thunberg, Greta. "How Dare You!" Speech at the UN Climate Action Summit, New York, NY, September 23, 2019. Video. Uploaded September 24, 2019. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2wtfc5XGkc>.

Footnotes vs. Endnotes for Speech Citations

Chicago style offers two primary citation systems: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. The Notes-Bibliography system, which is more common in humanities and arts, utilizes either footnotes or endnotes. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation is referenced, while endnotes are collected at the end of the document. Both systems require a bibliography at the end of the paper that lists all sources cited.

For speech citations, the first note for a particular speech is typically a full citation, providing all necessary details. Subsequent notes referencing the same speech can be shortened, often using the speaker's last name and a shortened title, or simply "Ibid." if it is the immediately preceding source. Regardless of whether you choose footnotes or endnotes, consistency in application is paramount for clear Chicago citation examples for speeches.

First Reference Note

This note provides the complete citation information for the speech, allowing the reader to identify and locate the source easily. It includes all the elements discussed previously, tailored to the specific type of speech (published, unpublished, recorded).

Subsequent Reference Notes

Once a source has been fully cited in a preceding note, subsequent references can be shortened. This streamlines the citation process and improves readability. Common methods include using the author's last name and a brief version of the speech title, or the author's last name and the publication details if no specific title is used.

The Bibliography

The bibliography serves as a comprehensive list of all the sources you have cited in your paper. It is arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. For speeches, the bibliography entry should contain the same core information as the first footnote or endnote, formatted according to CMOS guidelines. This ensures that readers can find all the sources consulted for your research.

Common Pitfalls in Citing Speeches

When applying Chicago citation examples for speeches, writers often encounter a few recurring issues. One of the most common mistakes is failing to provide sufficient detail, especially for

unpublished or obscure speeches. This can leave readers unable to verify the information. Another pitfall is inconsistent formatting, such as mixing up italics and quotation marks for titles, or omitting crucial publication details like the publisher or date.

Misidentifying the author or editor is also a frequent error, particularly when dealing with collected speeches. Ensure you are attributing the speech to the speaker and the collection to its editor. Finally, errors in differentiating between primary sources (the speech itself) and secondary sources (analyses of the speech) can lead to citation inaccuracies. Careful proofreading against the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines is essential to avoid these common problems and ensure your Chicago citation examples for speeches are accurate and professional.

Paying close attention to the specific type of speech and its availability is key. For instance, citing a live, unrecorded speech requires a different approach than citing a well-documented historical address published in a book. The goal is always clarity and verifiability for your audience. By mastering these principles, you can confidently cite any speech according to Chicago style, bolstering the authority and trustworthiness of your academic work.

The process of citing speeches, whether they are contemporary addresses or historical orations, demands precision. By following the detailed guidelines for unpublished, published, and recorded speeches, you ensure your work is both academically sound and easily navigable for your readers. Remember that the ultimate aim of any citation system is to provide clear attribution and allow for the retrieval of information, thereby upholding scholarly standards.

Understanding the subtle differences in formatting for various speech types—from personal communications to archival materials, and from standalone publications to digital media—is fundamental. Each category requires specific elements to be included to accurately represent the source. The Chicago Manual of Style provides a robust framework for this, and diligent application of its principles will lead to accurate and effective citations. Mastering these techniques is an investment in the quality and integrity of your writing.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of your Chicago citation examples for speeches hinges on your attention to detail and your commitment to accuracy. Whether you are citing a renowned political address or a specialized academic lecture, the same principles of clarity and completeness apply. By internalizing these practices, you not only meet the requirements of academic citation but also contribute to a more transparent and accessible body of knowledge.

Q: What is the most important information to include when citing an unpublished speech in Chicago style?

A: The most important information to include when citing an unpublished speech in Chicago style is the speaker's full name, the exact title of the speech (if it has one), the event and location where it was delivered, and the specific date of delivery. If the speech is held in an archive, you must also include the collection name, box and folder number, and the repository details.

Q: How do I cite a speech that was delivered years ago and I heard it myself?

A: If you heard a speech yourself and are citing it as personal knowledge, Chicago style generally prefers you to avoid such citations as they are not verifiable by the reader. However, if absolutely necessary, you would cite it as a personal communication, including the speaker's name and the approximate date and context (e.g., a lecture at a specific university).

Q: What is the difference between citing a speech published as a standalone book versus a speech published in a collection?

A: When citing a speech published as a standalone book, you treat it much like any other book, including the speaker as author, the speech title (italicized), publisher, and year. When citing a speech from a collection, you must cite both the individual speech (title in quotation marks) and the collection itself, including the editor(s), collection title (italicized), publisher, and page numbers for the speech.

Q: How do I cite a speech I found on YouTube using Chicago style?

A: To cite a speech found on YouTube using Chicago style, you will need the speaker's name, the title of the speech (in quotation marks), the title of the video, the uploader or creator, the platform (YouTube), the date of upload, and the specific URL. You may also include the date you accessed it.

Q: Should I use footnotes or endnotes for speech citations in Chicago style?

A: Chicago style offers the choice between footnotes (at the bottom of the page) and endnotes (at the end of the document) for its Notes-Bibliography system. Both are acceptable for citing speeches. The key is to be consistent throughout your document. The first note for a speech should be a full citation, while subsequent notes can be shortened.

Q: What are the common errors to avoid when citing speeches in Chicago style?

A: Common errors include omitting crucial publication or delivery details, inconsistent formatting (e.g., incorrect use of italics and quotation marks), misidentifying authors or editors, and failing to provide enough information for the reader to locate the source. Always double-check your citations against the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines.

Q: How do I cite an impromptu speech that doesn't have a

formal title?

A: If an impromptu speech lacks a formal title, you would describe it in quotation marks, such as “Unplanned Remarks” or “Opening Statement,” followed by the speaker’s name, the event, location, and date. The description should be as accurate and descriptive as possible to identify the specific speech.

Chicago Citation Examples For Speeches

Chicago Citation Examples For Speeches

Related Articles

- [chemistry lab terms](#)
- [chemistry for dummies audiobook](#)
- [chemical thermodynamics concepts](#)

[Back to Home](#)