

chicago manual indirect quotation examples

chicago manual indirect quotation examples are crucial for academic and professional writing, ensuring proper attribution and clarity when referencing the ideas of others without using their exact words. Understanding how to effectively paraphrase and integrate these indirect quotations, also known as reported speech, is a cornerstone of scholarly integrity and effective communication. This article will delve deeply into the nuances of indirect quotations according to the Chicago Manual of Style, covering their definition, when to use them, the essential components of proper citation, and providing a wealth of illustrative examples. We will explore the subtle differences between direct and indirect quotations and the stylistic choices that Chicago favors.

Table of Contents

Understanding Indirect Quotations

When to Use Indirect Quotations

Key Components of Indirect Quotations in Chicago Style

Chicago Manual Indirect Quotation Examples in Various Contexts

Stylistic Considerations for Indirect Quotations

Common Pitfalls to Avoid with Indirect Quotations

Understanding Indirect Quotations

An indirect quotation, often referred to as paraphrasing or reported speech, is when you restate the ideas or words of another author in your own words. Unlike a direct quotation, which uses the exact phrasing and is enclosed in quotation marks, an indirect quotation captures the essence of the original statement without verbatim reproduction. This method allows for smoother integration of external information into your own prose, making your writing flow more naturally while still acknowledging the source of the ideas. The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides detailed guidelines for employing these effectively, emphasizing the need for accurate representation of the original meaning and clear attribution.

The primary distinction lies in the presentation. Direct quotations are verbatim reproductions, precisely as the original author stated them, and require quotation marks. Indirect quotations, conversely, are a reinterpretation, a summary, or a restatement of the original thought. This rephrasing is a fundamental skill in academic writing, enabling writers to weave source material into their arguments without disrupting the narrative flow with lengthy verbatim passages. CMOS dedicates significant attention to ensuring that even when ideas are rephrased, the origin is unmistakably clear to the reader.

When to Use Indirect Quotations

Indirect quotations serve several vital functions in writing. They are particularly useful when you want to summarize a longer passage, when the original wording is not particularly distinctive or important, or when you wish to integrate an idea seamlessly into your own sentence structure. Using paraphrases can also help you to demonstrate your understanding of the source material by showing that you can explain it in your own terms. Furthermore, they can help to avoid overusing direct quotations, which can make an essay feel cluttered or like a patchwork of other people's words.

Consider these scenarios where indirect quotations are particularly beneficial:

- Summarizing key arguments or findings from a lengthy source.
- When the specific wording of the original is less important than the idea itself.
- To blend an author's point into your own sentence without disruptive quotation marks.
- To explain complex concepts from a source in simpler terms.
- When you want to contrast or compare an author's ideas with those of another.

Key Components of Indirect Quotations in Chicago Style

Regardless of whether you are using direct or indirect quotations, proper attribution is paramount. The Chicago Manual of Style mandates that all borrowed ideas, whether paraphrased or quoted verbatim, must be cited. For indirect quotations, this typically involves introducing the paraphrased idea and then providing a citation in either the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system, depending on the specific publication guidelines you are following.

The essential elements include:

- **Introductory Phrase:** Often, you will introduce the paraphrased idea with a phrase that signals it is from another source. This can be as simple as "According to Smith..." or "Jones argues that..."

- **Accurate Paraphrasing:** The core of an indirect quotation is accurately conveying the original author's meaning. This means understanding the source thoroughly and restating it faithfully in your own words and sentence structure. Avoid merely rearranging words or substituting synonyms; true paraphrasing involves a deeper comprehension and rephrasing of the entire idea.
- **Complete Citation:** Every indirect quotation requires a citation that allows the reader to locate the original source. In the notes-bibliography system, this is typically done with a footnote or endnote. In the author-date system, it will be an in-text parenthetical citation.

Chicago Manual Indirect Quotation Examples in Various Contexts

To truly grasp the application of Chicago style for indirect quotations, examining concrete examples is essential. These examples illustrate how to introduce the paraphrase and provide the necessary citation, whether using footnotes/endnotes or parenthetical citations.

Example 1: A Scholarly Article

Imagine you are citing a journal article by Dr. Evelyn Reed. Her original statement might be: "The impact of early childhood education on long-term cognitive development is undeniably significant, laying the foundation for future academic success."

Using Footnotes/Endnotes (Notes-Bibliography System):

In your text:

Dr. Evelyn Reed asserts that early childhood education plays a crucial role in shaping children's cognitive abilities throughout their lives, thereby establishing a basis for later academic achievement.¹

In your footnote/endnote:

1. Evelyn Reed, "The Cognitive Trajectory of Preschoolers," *Journal of Educational Psychology* 25, no. 2 (2022): 145.

Using Parenthetical Citations (Author-Date System):

In your text:

Dr. Evelyn Reed asserts that early childhood education plays a crucial role in shaping children's cognitive abilities throughout their lives, thereby

establishing a basis for later academic achievement (Reed 2022, 145).

Example 2: A Book

Consider a passage from a book by Professor Alan Chen, who writes: "The inherent complexities of the global supply chain have been further exacerbated by recent geopolitical instability, leading to widespread economic disruption."

Using Footnotes/Endnotes (Notes-Bibliography System):

In your text:

Professor Alan Chen explains that recent geopolitical instability has intensified the inherent difficulties within the global supply chain, resulting in extensive economic disturbance.²

In your footnote/endnote:

2. Alan Chen, *Navigating Global Markets* (New York: Academic Press, 2023), 88.

Using Parenthetical Citations (Author-Date System):

In your text:

Professor Alan Chen explains that recent geopolitical instability has intensified the inherent difficulties within the global supply chain, resulting in extensive economic disturbance (Chen 2023, 88).

Example 3: Reporting an Interview

If you interviewed an expert, Sarah Davies, and she said: "My primary concern is the lack of equitable access to mental health resources for underserved communities."

Using Footnotes/Endnotes (Notes-Bibliography System):

In your text:

Davies expressed her foremost worry regarding the insufficient availability of mental health services for communities that are often overlooked.³

In your footnote/endnote:

3. Sarah Davies, interview by author, March 15, 2024.

Using Parenthetical Citations (Author-Date System):

In your text:

Davies expressed her foremost worry regarding the insufficient availability of mental health services for communities that are often overlooked (Davies, interview).

Note: For unpublished interviews, the format in the author-date system can vary; always consult specific guidelines or the latest edition of CMOS. Often, a simple mention in the text and a full entry in the bibliography is sufficient if no date is provided.

Stylistic Considerations for Indirect Quotations

While accuracy and attribution are paramount, stylistic choices can enhance the integration of indirect quotations. The goal is to make your writing engaging and coherent. Varying your introductory phrases can prevent monotony. Instead of always using "argues" or "states," consider words like "contends," "suggests," "explains," "observes," "notes," "asserts," or "posits," depending on the nuance of the original statement and your own writing.

It is also important to consider the length of the paraphrase. A brief restatement is generally easier to integrate smoothly than a lengthy summary of several points. If you need to cover multiple ideas from a single source, consider breaking them into several well-placed indirect quotations rather than one long, potentially unwieldy paraphrase.

Furthermore, ensure that the tense of your reporting verb (e.g., "asserts," "explained") is consistent. Typically, the present tense is used when referring to a published work's content (e.g., "Smith argues..."), while the past tense is used when referring to what an individual said in a specific past instance (e.g., "Davies expressed...").

Common Pitfalls to Avoid with Indirect Quotations

Despite their utility, indirect quotations are susceptible to certain errors. One of the most significant is "patchwriting," which involves changing only a few words or the sentence structure of the original source while largely retaining its phrasing. This can unintentionally lead to plagiarism because it is too close to the original. True paraphrasing requires a thorough re-understanding and rephrasing of the material in your own voice.

Another common mistake is misrepresenting the original author's meaning. This can happen if you don't fully grasp the source material or if you take a

statement out of its original context. Always ensure your paraphrase accurately reflects the author's intended message. Failing to cite an indirect quotation is also a serious academic offense. Every time you use another's ideas, even in your own words, you must provide a citation.

Finally, avoid making the indirect quotation overly long or detailed. If a passage is complex or particularly well-phrased, a direct quotation might be more appropriate. Indirect quotations are best for conveying the essence of an idea efficiently.

In summary, mastering the use of indirect quotations according to the Chicago Manual of Style involves understanding their purpose, accurately rephrasing source material, providing clear and consistent citations, and employing stylistic choices that enhance readability. By avoiding common pitfalls, writers can effectively incorporate borrowed ideas into their work while maintaining academic integrity and producing polished, persuasive prose.

Q: What is the main difference between a direct and an indirect quotation in Chicago style?

A: The main difference is that a direct quotation uses the exact words of the original source, enclosed in quotation marks, while an indirect quotation, or paraphrase, restates the original idea in your own words without quotation marks but still requires a citation.

Q: When should I use an indirect quotation instead of a direct quotation?

A: You should use an indirect quotation when you want to summarize a longer passage, when the original wording is not particularly important, or when you wish to integrate an idea smoothly into your own sentence structure without the visual interruption of quotation marks.

Q: Is a citation always required for an indirect quotation in Chicago style?

A: Yes, absolutely. Chicago style, like all academic citation styles, requires a citation for any borrowed ideas, information, or data, whether they are presented as a direct quotation or an indirect quotation (paraphrase).

Q: What are some common introductory phrases used

with indirect quotations in Chicago style?

A: Common introductory phrases include "According to [Author]," "[Author] argues that," "[Author] explains that," "[Author] notes that," and "[Author] suggests that." The choice depends on the nuance of the original statement.

Q: Can I just change a few words in a sentence from a source to make it an indirect quotation?

A: No, this is called "patchwriting" and is considered plagiarism. True paraphrasing involves restating the entire idea in your own words and sentence structure, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the original material.

Q: How do I cite an indirect quotation from a book in Chicago style (notes-bibliography system)?

A: You would typically use a footnote or endnote. For example, if you paraphrase from page 50 of a book by John Smith published in 2023, your footnote might read: John Smith, *The History of Ideas* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2023), 50.

Q: How do I cite an indirect quotation from a journal article in Chicago style (author-date system)?

A: In the author-date system, you would use an in-text parenthetical citation. For example: (Smith 2023, 50). This includes the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number where the idea can be found.

Q: What if I am paraphrasing an idea that is spread across multiple pages in a source?

A: If the idea spans multiple pages, you can cite the range of pages, for example, (Smith 2023, 50-52). However, it's often clearer to cite the specific page where the core of the idea is expressed if possible.

Q: Can indirect quotations be used for statistics or data?

A: Yes, indirect quotations can be used to report statistics or data. You must, however, accurately represent the data and cite the source meticulously, often indicating the specific page or table where the data can

be found.

Chicago Manual Indirect Quotation Examples

Chicago Manual Indirect Quotation Examples

Related Articles

- [chicago manual block quote punctuation rules](#)
- [chicago manual formatting quick guide](#)
- [chicago manual of style 17th edition citations styles](#)

[Back to Home](#)