

chicago manual of style footnotes for turabian vs chicago examples

chicago manual of style footnotes for turabian vs chicago examples represent a common point of confusion for students and scholars navigating academic writing. Both systems are deeply rooted in the principles of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), yet they exhibit subtle but significant differences, particularly concerning how citations are presented in footnotes. Understanding these nuances is crucial for maintaining academic integrity and ensuring your research is accurately credited. This article will delve into the core similarities and divergences between Chicago style footnotes and Turabian style footnotes, offering clear examples to illustrate their application. We will explore the foundational elements of each system, their specific formatting requirements, and provide practical guidance on when to use which, all aimed at demystifying the process of citing sources within these influential style guides.

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Understanding the Foundation: Chicago and Turabian Citation Styles

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a comprehensive guide to writing, citing, and editing, widely adopted across many academic disciplines, particularly in the humanities. Its citation system offers two primary methods: the author-date system and the notes-bibliography system. The latter, which heavily relies on footnotes or endnotes, is where the intricacies of citing sources become most apparent. Turabian style, on the other hand, is essentially a simplified adaptation of CMOS, specifically tailored for students and younger scholars. Developed by Kate L. Turabian, it streamlines some of the more complex aspects of CMOS while retaining its core principles, making it more accessible for those new to academic citation.

Both systems aim to provide readers with the necessary information to locate and verify the sources used in a document. This is achieved through consistent and standardized formatting of bibliographic data. The goal is to avoid plagiarism, give credit where credit is due, and allow for easy retrieval of cited materials. While they share the same ultimate objective, the path to achieving it can differ in the finer points of presentation, especially when it comes to the format of footnotes.

The Role and Structure of Footnotes in Academic Writing

Footnotes serve a dual purpose in academic writing. Primarily, they provide citations for direct quotes, paraphrased ideas, or specific data drawn from external sources. This allows the reader to track the origin of information and consult the original texts for further understanding. Secondly, footnotes can also be used for explanatory or supplementary material that might disrupt the flow of the main text. This could include tangential discussions, definitions of specialized terms, or acknowledgments.

The structure of a footnote typically includes a superscript number in the text, which corresponds to a numbered note at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the document (endnote). This note then contains the full bibliographic information for the source, or a shortened version if

the source has already been cited. The precise format of this information is where the distinctions between Chicago and Turabian styles become most evident.

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) Footnote System

The Chicago Manual of Style's notes-bibliography system is renowned for its thoroughness and flexibility. When employing footnotes in CMOS, the first time a source is cited, the footnote provides a complete bibliographic reference. Subsequent citations of the same source use a shortened form, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number.

Core Principles of CMOS Footnotes

The overarching principle of CMOS footnotes is to provide sufficient information for the reader to identify the source without being overly cumbersome. For initial citations, CMOS generally prefers a more complete entry than might be found in other styles. This often includes elements such as the author's full name, the full title of the work, publication details (place, publisher, year), and specific page numbers. The placement of commas, periods, and the use of italics for titles are all dictated by strict rules.

For subsequent citations, CMOS emphasizes conciseness. The aim is to remind the reader of the source without reprinting extensive information. This leads to the use of shortened titles and the omission of publication details that are readily available from the first full citation. The transition from a full note to a shortened note is a key characteristic of the CMOS system, designed to improve readability and reduce redundancy within the document.

Formatting Specifics: First and Subsequent Mentions

In CMOS, the first time a source is cited in a footnote, it should appear in a full bibliographic format. For example, a book would include the author's full name, the book's full title (italicized), publication information, and the specific page number(s) cited. Subsequent mentions of the same source are significantly abbreviated. A common format for a subsequent note is the author's last name, a shortened version of the title (italicized), and the page number(s).

There are specific rules for when to use a shortened title versus just the

author's name and page number. If an author has written multiple works that are cited, the shortened title becomes essential for clarity. Conversely, if an author has only one work cited in the entire document, or if the subsequent citation is immediately after the first, a simplified note using only the author's last name and page number might suffice, though a shortened title is generally preferred for consistency.

Examples of CMOS Footnotes

Here are some illustrative examples of Chicago Manual of Style footnotes:

- **First mention of a book:** 1. Jane Doe, *The Art of Citation* (New York: Academic Press, 2020), 45.
- **Subsequent mention of the same book:** 2. Doe, *Art of Citation*, 67.
- **Further mention of the same book, if only one work by the author is cited:** 3. Doe, 50.
- **First mention of a journal article:** 4. John Smith, "The Evolution of Footnotes," *Journal of Scholarly Writing* 15, no. 2 (2021): 112, <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/js.2021.15.2.112>.
- **Subsequent mention of the same journal article:** 5. Smith, "Evolution of Footnotes," 115.
- **First mention of a website:** 6. "About Chicago Style," The Chicago Manual of Style Online, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/about>.
- **Subsequent mention of the same website:** 7. "About Chicago Style."

The Turabian Style Footnote System

Turabian style, while derived from CMOS, offers a slightly more streamlined approach to footnotes, particularly for student papers. It adheres to the same fundamental principles of providing necessary citation information but simplifies some of the formatting conventions to make them easier for beginners to apply. The core idea remains: clearly identify the source of information without impeding the reader's experience.

Relationship Between Turabian and CMOS

Turabian's system is essentially a practical application of CMOS for students. Kate L. Turabian's original work, "A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations," was designed to translate the extensive guidance of CMOS into a more accessible format for those undertaking academic writing projects at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Consequently, the principles behind Turabian footnotes are virtually identical to those of CMOS notes-bibliography system. The primary divergence lies in the preferred level of detail and certain formatting preferences, especially in simplified notes.

For most common source types like books and journal articles, the initial and subsequent footnote formats in Turabian are very similar to CMOS. However, Turabian often suggests slightly more concise options, particularly when an author has written multiple works or for very frequent citations. The emphasis is always on clarity and utility for the reader.

Key Differences in Turabian Footnote Formatting

While the underlying logic is the same, Turabian style can sometimes present slightly more simplified options, especially for subsequent notes or when dealing with sources that are frequently cited. For instance, if an author has only one work cited in a paper, Turabian might more readily permit the omission of the shortened title in subsequent notes, allowing for just the author's last name and page number. However, it is crucial to note that Turabian's own guidelines often echo CMOS, so checking the latest edition of Turabian is always recommended.

Another area where slight variations might appear is in the punctuation or capitalization preferences for certain elements, though these are typically minor. The spirit of Turabian is to be practical and easy to follow, which means it sometimes leans towards the most straightforward presentation of information that still meets the academic standard of thorough citation.

Examples of Turabian Footnotes

Let's look at how Turabian style footnotes might appear, drawing parallels and slight distinctions with CMOS:

- **First mention of a book (very similar to CMOS):** 1. Jane Doe, *The Art of Citation* (New York: Academic Press, 2020), 45.
- **Subsequent mention of the same book (can be more flexible):** 2. Doe, *Art of Citation*, 67. (Or, if only one work by Doe is cited and it's clear

from context: 2. Doe, 67.)

- **First mention of a journal article (very similar to CMOS):** 3. John Smith, "The Evolution of Footnotes," *Journal of Scholarly Writing* 15, no. 2 (2021): 112.
- **Subsequent mention of the same journal article:** 4. Smith, "Evolution of Footnotes," 115. (Again, if only one work by Smith is cited, a simpler note might be considered, but the shortened title is standard.)
- **First mention of a website (similar to CMOS):** 5. "About Chicago Style," The Chicago Manual of Style Online, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/about>.
- **Subsequent mention of the same website:** 6. "About Chicago Style."

Chicago vs. Turabian Footnotes: A Direct Comparison

When comparing Chicago and Turabian footnotes, the most striking observation is their fundamental similarity. Both systems are built upon the notes-bibliography framework and share the objective of providing clear, accurate, and retrievable source information. The differences are often subtle, manifesting in preferred phrasing, the degree of conciseness allowed in subsequent notes, and the emphasis placed on simplification for student writers.

The Chicago Manual of Style, being the original and more comprehensive guide, often presents more detailed explanations and a wider range of formatting options for various complex scenarios. Turabian, in contrast, distills these principles into a more manageable set of guidelines, making it the preferred choice for many instructors and institutions that want a clear, standardized approach for student work. However, the core components of a footnote—author, title, publication details, page number—remain consistent in both.

Book Citations: Footnote Examples

Let's examine side-by-side examples for citing a book, illustrating both first and subsequent mentions.

- **Book, First Mention (CMOS):** 1. Eleanor Vance, *The History of Academic Publishing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 150.

- **Book, First Mention (Turabian):** 1. Eleanor Vance, *The History of Academic Publishing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 150.
- **Book, Subsequent Mention (CMOS):** 2. Vance, *History of Academic Publishing*, 165.
- **Book, Subsequent Mention (Turabian):** 2. Vance, *History of Academic Publishing*, 165. (Alternatively, if only one work by Vance is cited, and the context is clear: 2. Vance, 165.)

Journal Article Citations: Footnote Examples

Citing scholarly journal articles is another common scenario where we can see the shared and distinct features of these styles.

- **Journal Article, First Mention (CMOS):** 3. Robert Chen, "Digital Humanities and Textual Analysis," *Literary Quarterly* 33, no. 4 (2019): 288, <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/lq.2019.33.4.288>.
- **Journal Article, First Mention (Turabian):** 3. Robert Chen, "Digital Humanities and Textual Analysis," *Literary Quarterly* 33, no. 4 (2019): 288.
- **Journal Article, Subsequent Mention (CMOS):** 4. Chen, "Digital Humanities," 290.
- **Journal Article, Subsequent Mention (Turabian):** 4. Chen, "Digital Humanities," 290. (If only one article by Chen is cited, and clarity is maintained: 4. Chen, 290.)

Note the inclusion of a DOI in the CMOS example, which is often preferred or required in CMOS for digital sources, while Turabian might omit it if not strictly necessary or if the emphasis is on print format.

Website Citations: Footnote Examples

Citing online resources also reveals similarities and potential minor differences in how information is presented.

- **Website, First Mention (CMOS):** 5. "Guide to Footnotes and Endnotes," Purdue Online Writing Lab, last modified March 15, 2022, https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_17th_style/chic

ago_manual_of_style_footnotes_and_endnotes.html.

- **Website, First Mention (Turabian):** 5. "Guide to Footnotes and Endnotes," Purdue Online Writing Lab, accessed March 15, 2022, https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_17th_style/chicago_manual_of_style_footnotes_and_endnotes.html.
- **Website, Subsequent Mention (CMOS):** 6. "Guide to Footnotes and Endnotes."
- **Website, Subsequent Mention (Turabian):** 6. "Guide to Footnotes and Endnotes."

The primary distinction here might be the use of "last modified" versus "accessed" for online resources, a nuance that CMOS tends to detail more precisely. Turabian often adopts a more straightforward approach for accessing online content.

Choosing the Right Style: Guidance for Writers

Deciding whether to use Chicago or Turabian footnotes largely depends on the specific requirements of your institution, professor, or publication. Many university courses will explicitly state which style guide to follow, often specifying either CMOS or Turabian. If no specific instruction is given, and you are a student, Turabian is often a safe and appropriate choice due to its focus on clarity and ease of use.

For scholars submitting to journals, the journal's submission guidelines will dictate the preferred citation style. While many academic journals adhere to CMOS, some may have specific adaptations or preferences. It is always paramount to consult these guidelines before submitting your work. If you are writing a thesis or dissertation, the university's graduate school or departmental handbook will typically provide detailed instructions on the required citation format, which is often based on Turabian or a specific departmental adaptation of CMOS.

FAQ

Q: What is the main difference between Chicago Manual of Style footnotes and Turabian footnotes?

A: The primary difference is that Turabian is a simplified adaptation of the Chicago Manual of Style, tailored for students. While the underlying principles are the same, Turabian often offers slightly more concise options

for subsequent citations and focuses on accessibility.

Q: Are Turabian footnotes considered a separate style from Chicago, or are they a part of it?

A: Turabian footnotes are considered a derivative or adaptation of the Chicago Manual of Style's notes-bibliography system. They are not entirely separate but rather a streamlined version.

Q: When should I use Chicago style footnotes versus Turabian style footnotes?

A: You should use Chicago style footnotes if your instructor, institution, or publisher explicitly requires it. If you are a student and no specific style is mandated, Turabian is generally an appropriate and user-friendly choice. Always check submission guidelines.

Q: How do subsequent footnotes differ between Chicago and Turabian when citing a book by an author with multiple works?

A: In both styles, a subsequent footnote for a book by an author with multiple works will include the author's last name and a shortened version of the title. The specific formatting of the shortened title may have minor variations, but the principle is the same: clarity is paramount.

Q: Is there a difference in how Chicago and Turabian handle citations for online sources in footnotes?

A: Both styles provide guidelines for citing online sources. CMOS often offers more detailed specifications for elements like "last modified" dates, while Turabian may present a slightly more generalized approach focusing on accessibility and core citation data.

Q: Can I use endnotes instead of footnotes with Turabian or Chicago styles?

A: Yes, both Chicago and Turabian styles support the use of endnotes as an alternative to footnotes. The formatting of the notes themselves (whether at the bottom of the page or at the end of the document) does not alter the core bibliographic information presented.

Q: If I am writing a dissertation, which style is more likely to be required: Chicago or Turabian?

A: Dissertations often require a highly standardized citation format. While many universities align with Chicago or Turabian, specific departments or graduate schools may have their own adaptation or preference. It is essential to consult your university's dissertation guidelines.

Q: Does Turabian style omit any information from footnotes that Chicago style includes?

A: Turabian generally aims for conciseness but does not typically omit essential bibliographic information. Any differences are usually in the preferred level of detail for subsequent notes or in the handling of less common source types, where CMOS might offer more granular instructions.

Q: How do I format a shortened title in a Chicago or Turabian footnote?

A: Shortened titles in footnotes are typically italicized and include the most significant words from the original title, excluding articles like "a," "an," and "the" unless essential for clarity. For example, "The Art of Citation" becomes "Art of Citation."

Q: If my instructor says to use Chicago style, does that always mean the 17th edition?

A: Chicago style is updated periodically (e.g., 17th edition). If your instructor specifies "Chicago style," it is best practice to clarify which edition they prefer, as there can be minor updates and changes in formatting conventions between editions.

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