

# chicago style citation examples film

## Chicago Style Citation Examples: Film and Audiovisual Works

**chicago style citation examples film**, and other audiovisual materials, often present unique challenges for researchers and writers. Understanding the intricacies of citing these dynamic media is crucial for academic integrity and clear communication. This comprehensive guide will delve into the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) for film and video citations, providing clear examples for various formats, including feature films, documentaries, television episodes, and streaming content. We will explore the essential components of a Chicago-style citation for film, breaking down the differences between notes and bibliography entries, and offering practical advice for citing both traditional and digital media. Mastering these citation styles ensures your research is properly attributed and your audience can easily locate your sources.

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## Understanding Chicago Style for Film

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers a robust framework for citing a wide array of sources, and this includes the ever-evolving world of film and audiovisual media. Unlike traditional print sources, films possess multiple creators, production companies, and often undergo various releases and formats. CMOS addresses these complexities by providing specific guidelines to ensure clarity and accuracy in attributing credit and enabling source retrieval.

The core principle behind any citation system, including Chicago style, is to give credit where credit is due and to allow your readers to find the exact material you consulted. For films, this means identifying the work itself, its creators, its distributors, and the specific version you accessed. The system is designed to be flexible enough to accommodate historical films, contemporary releases, and digital formats alike, requiring careful attention to detail for each component.

# The Anatomy of a Film Citation

A well-formed Chicago-style citation for a film typically includes several key pieces of information. These elements, when presented correctly, paint a complete picture of the source. While the exact order and punctuation may vary slightly between notes and bibliography entries, the fundamental components remain consistent.

Key elements generally include:

- The title of the film, italicized.
- The director(s) or primary creator(s).
- The primary actors or main performers, if relevant to your research.
- The production company or companies.
- The distributor and year of distribution.
- Information about the specific version or format (e.g., DVD, Blu-ray, streaming service, specific release year).
- For television episodes, the series title, episode title, network, and air date are crucial.

Understanding these components is the first step toward accurately citing any film or audiovisual material according to Chicago style guidelines.

## Citing Feature Films

Feature films are perhaps the most common type of audiovisual material researchers encounter. Citing them requires identifying the film's title, director, and key production details. Whether you viewed the film on physical media like a DVD or Blu-ray, or through a streaming platform, the citation structure will adapt to reflect the access method.

For a film viewed on DVD or Blu-ray, the citation should include details that allow a reader to find that specific edition. This often involves mentioning the studio and the year of the release of that particular disc. For example:

- **Notes Entry Example:** *Casablanca*, directed by Michael Curtiz, Warner Bros. Pictures, 1942, DVD.
- **Bibliography Entry Example:** Curtiz, Michael, director. *Casablanca*. Warner Bros. Pictures, 1942. DVD.

When citing a film accessed via a streaming service, you will need to include

the name of the platform. This acknowledges the specific access point and potentially the version available on that service.

## Citing Documentaries

Documentaries, while often sharing a similar structure to feature films, may place a greater emphasis on the filmmaker's role and the subject matter. The director is typically a central figure, and acknowledging their contribution is paramount. Production companies and distributors remain important for identifying the specific version of the documentary.

When citing a documentary, treat the director as the primary author. If the film has a prominent narrator or subject whose contribution is central to your analysis, you might consider including them in a note citation, but it is less common in the bibliography entry unless they are the primary creator.

- **Notes Entry Example:** Planet Earth II, directed by David Attenborough, BBC Earth, 2016, Blu-ray.
- **Bibliography Entry Example:** Attenborough, David, director. Planet Earth II. BBC Earth, 2016. Blu-ray.

For documentaries found on streaming services, the format closely mirrors that of feature films viewed digitally.

## Citing Television Episodes

Television episodes require a more detailed citation structure to distinguish them from feature films. You need to identify the specific episode, its title, the series it belongs to, the network that aired it, and the date of its original broadcast. This level of specificity is crucial for locating the exact program.

When citing a specific episode, begin with the episode title, followed by the series title. Then, include the network and the original air date. This format ensures that readers can pinpoint the exact broadcast you are referencing.

- **Notes Entry Example:** "The Uncanny Valley," directed by Rian Johnson, Breaking Bad, AMC, October 15, 2017.
- **Bibliography Entry Example:** Johnson, Rian, director. "The Uncanny Valley." Breaking Bad. AMC, October 15, 2017.

If you viewed the episode via a streaming service, you would append that information similarly to how you would cite a film on a streaming platform.

# Citing Streaming Service Content

The rise of streaming services has fundamentally changed how we access and cite audiovisual content. Chicago style provides clear guidelines for referencing films and series found on platforms like Netflix, Hulu, or Amazon Prime Video. The key is to indicate the platform and, if available, the specific version or release date associated with that platform.

When citing a film on a streaming service, include the title, director, production company, year, and crucially, the name of the streaming service and a stable URL if available. However, for most commonly available films and series, the URL is often omitted in favor of the platform name as it is assumed to be accessible there. Note that streaming service interfaces and content libraries can change, so citing the platform is often sufficient for identification.

- **Notes Entry Example:** Parasite, directed by Bong Joon-ho, CJ Entertainment, 2019, streamed on Hulu.
- **Bibliography Entry Example:** Bong Joon-ho, director. Parasite. CJ Entertainment, 2019. Streamed on Hulu.

For television episodes on streaming services, you'll combine the television episode citation elements with the streaming platform information.

# Citing Short Films and Web Videos

Short films and web videos, often found on platforms like YouTube, Vimeo, or independent film sites, also require specific citation formats. These often differ from feature films due to their accessibility and the nature of their creators and distributors.

For short films or web videos, begin with the title of the individual work. If it is part of a larger collection or series, that information would follow. Crucially, you will want to cite the platform where it was accessed and provide a URL. The creator or uploader should also be identified if known.

- **Notes Entry Example:** "The Present," directed by Jacob Frey, Pixar Animation Studios, 2018, YouTube, 5:20, youtube.com/watch?v=f7-rX98U87U.
- **Bibliography Entry Example:** Frey, Jacob, director. "The Present." Pixar Animation Studios, 2018. YouTube, 5:20. youtube.com/watch?v=f7-rX98U87U.

The inclusion of the duration can be helpful for web videos, as it provides an additional identifier.

# Notes vs. Bibliography Entries for Film

Chicago style utilizes two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. When citing films, the notes-bibliography system is more commonly employed in humanities disciplines, and it distinguishes between footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography.

**Footnotes/Endnotes** are used to cite sources the first time they are mentioned in the text and can include brief annotations or commentary. Subsequent citations of the same source are shortened. The initial note for a film provides the most detailed information.

- **First Note Example:** Citizen Kane, directed by Orson Welles (RK0 Pictures, 1941).

**Bibliography Entries** appear at the end of the paper and list all sources consulted, in alphabetical order by the author's last name (or title if no author is listed). Bibliography entries for films generally place the director's name first, followed by the italicized title, production company, and year.

- **Bibliography Example:** Welles, Orson, director. Citizen Kane. RK0 Pictures, 1941.

Understanding the distinction between these two formats is vital for consistent and accurate citation throughout your work.

## Common Pitfalls and Best Practices

Citing films can be tricky, and several common pitfalls can trip up even experienced writers. One frequent issue is not differentiating between the release year of the film and the year of a specific home video or streaming release. Always strive to cite the version you actually viewed.

Another common mistake is inconsistent formatting, particularly with punctuation and the italicization of titles. Pay close attention to the specific requirements for notes versus bibliography entries. For example, in a note, the title might appear in italics followed by the production company and year in parentheses. In the bibliography, the director's name comes first, followed by the italicized title.

- **Best Practice:** Always consult the latest edition of The Chicago Manual of Style for the most current guidelines.
- **Best Practice:** Keep a detailed record of the films you watch, including their titles, directors, production companies, distributors, and the specific format or platform you used for viewing.

- **Best Practice:** When in doubt, err on the side of providing more information rather than less.

Adhering to these practices will ensure your citations are accurate, comprehensive, and meet academic standards.

Accurately citing films and other audiovisual materials in Chicago style is an essential skill for scholars and students alike. By understanding the core components of a citation and applying the specific rules for different media types, you can ensure your work is well-attributed and credible. Whether you are referencing classic cinema, contemporary documentaries, or the latest streaming series, mastering these citation examples will elevate the quality and integrity of your research.

## **FAQ**

### **Q: What is the most important piece of information when citing a film in Chicago style?**

A: The most crucial piece of information is the title of the film, which should always be italicized. Following closely are the director's name and the year of release, as these help uniquely identify the work.

### **Q: How do I cite a film that I watched on a streaming service like Netflix?**

A: When citing a film from a streaming service, include the film's title (italicized), director, production company, and year, followed by the name of the streaming service. For example: *The Irishman*, directed by Martin Scorsese, Netflix, 2019.

### **Q: Should I include actors in my film citations?**

A: While you should generally include the director as the primary creator, actors are typically only included in citations if they are central to your argument or if you are specifically analyzing their performance. In most standard film citations, actors are omitted.

### **Q: What is the difference between a note citation and a bibliography entry for a film?**

A: A note (footnote or endnote) citation provides a concise citation the first time a film is mentioned in your text and is shortened for subsequent mentions. A bibliography entry, listed alphabetically at the end of your

paper, provides a more complete citation for all sources consulted.

**Q: How do I cite a specific version of a film, like a director's cut or a restored edition?**

A: If the specific version is important to your research, you should include details about it. For example, you might note "director's cut" or "restored edition" after the title or in the production details, depending on how prominently it functions in identifying the source.

**Q: Is it necessary to include a URL for films watched on streaming platforms?**

A: In most cases, for commonly available films on major streaming platforms, the platform name itself is sufficient for identification. Including a URL is more common for independent web videos or short films where the platform and URL are critical for locating the specific content.

**Q: How do I cite a film that has multiple directors?**

A: If a film has multiple directors, you should list them in the order they appear in the film's credits. For example: Directors John Doe and Jane Smith, Collaborative Vision, Production Company, Year.

**Q: What if I can't find the production company or distributor for a film?**

A: If you are unable to find the production company or distributor, you can omit this information. However, always try your best to locate these details as they provide important contextual information about the film's origin and distribution.

**Q: How do I cite a foreign film in Chicago style?**

A: The citation format for a foreign film is the same as for an English-language film. The key is to provide the original title and, if relevant for your audience, you can include the translated title in parentheses after the original title. For example: Parasite (Gisaengchung).

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