

chicago style citation examples for interviews

chicago style citation examples for interviews are essential for academic integrity and clear communication when referencing firsthand accounts. Whether you've conducted a formal interview for research or spoken with someone informally for a news article, understanding how to cite these sources correctly is paramount. This comprehensive guide will delve into the nuances of Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) citation for interviews, covering both the bibliography and the note-and-bibliography system. We will explore the various components of an interview citation, discuss how to handle different types of interviews (published, unpublished, personal), and provide clear, actionable examples to help you navigate this often-confusing aspect of academic writing. Mastering these Chicago style citation examples for interviews will ensure your work is properly attributed and your sources are easily verifiable for your readers.

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Understanding the Chicago Style for Interviews

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a robust framework for academic citation, and this includes specific guidelines for referencing interviews. Interviews, as primary source material, offer unique perspectives and direct information that can be invaluable to research. However, their often informal nature and the absence of a universally standardized publication process can present challenges when it comes to citation. CMOS recognizes this by offering flexible yet precise methods for acknowledging these sources, ensuring that readers can locate the information and understand its origin.

The core principle behind citing interviews in Chicago style is to provide enough information for your reader to understand the context of the interview and, if possible, to locate the source themselves. This involves detailing who was interviewed, when, where, and how the interview was conducted. The specific format will vary depending on whether the interview is published, unpublished, or accessible through different media.

Components of a Chicago Style Interview Citation

Regardless of the interview type, several key pieces of information are generally required for a complete Chicago style citation. These elements help establish the credibility and context of the information you are presenting. Understanding these components is the first step to correctly citing any interview.

The essential elements typically include:

- The name of the person interviewed (the interviewee).
- The name of the person conducting the interview (the interviewer), if relevant and not you.
- The date of the interview.
- The method or location of the interview (e.g., in person, by phone, via email, published in a journal).
- Any identifying details, such as page numbers or timestamps if applicable.

Citing Unpublished Personal Interviews (Note and Bibliography)

When citing an interview you conducted yourself that has not been published, the Chicago style provides clear instructions. These interviews are treated as personal communications, and the emphasis is on providing sufficient detail within the note to allow your reader to understand the context. The bibliography entry is often less detailed for unpublished personal interviews, sometimes omitted entirely if the focus is solely on the note.

In-Text Citations (Notes)

For unpublished personal interviews, the note typically includes the interviewee's full name, the type of interview (e.g., "interview by author," "personal interview"), and the date the interview took place. If you are quoting directly or referencing a specific point, you may include the page number if a transcript exists, though this is less common for informal interviews.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

1. Eleanor Vance, personal interview by author, April 15, 2023.

If you are referencing a specific point from a transcribed interview:

2. Arthur Pendelton, interview by author, March 10, 2023, transcript, 5.

Bibliography Entries

In the bibliography, unpublished personal interviews are usually listed by the interviewee's last name. The entry will include the interviewee's full name, the description of the interview, and the date. Some scholars choose to omit unpublished personal interviews from the bibliography entirely if they are only briefly mentioned or if the focus is on published sources, but it is generally good practice to include them if they are significant to your research.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Vance, Eleanor. Personal interview by author. April 15, 2023.

Citing Published Interviews (Note and Bibliography)

When an interview has been published, whether in a book, journal, magazine, or online article, the citation follows the general format for published works, with specific attention paid to the nature of the interview itself. The goal here is to direct the reader to the specific publication where the interview can be found.

Interviews in Books

If an interview is part of a book, treat it as a chapter or an essay within that larger work. You'll need to identify the interviewee, the interviewer (if different from the author of the surrounding text), the title of the interview (if it has one), the title of the book, and the publication details.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

3. Maya Angelou, "The Poet as Teacher," interview by Robert O'Brien, in *Conversations with Maya Angelou*, ed. Jeffrey M. Elliot (New York: Random House, 1989), 112-120.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Angelou, Maya. "The Poet as Teacher." Interview by Robert O'Brien. In *Conversations with Maya Angelou*, edited by Jeffrey M. Elliot, 112-120. New York: Random House, 1989.

Interviews in Periodicals (Magazines, Journals)

For interviews published in magazines or academic journals, you will cite the interviewee, the title of the interview (if applicable), the title of the periodical, volume and issue numbers (for journals), date of publication, and page numbers.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

4. David Attenborough, "On the Front Lines of Conservation," interview by Sarah Davies, National Geographic, September 2022, 45.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Attenborough, David. "On the Front Lines of Conservation." Interview by Sarah Davies. National Geographic, September 2022, 45.

Citing Interviews from Broadcast Media

Interviews that appear on television, radio, or podcasts also require specific citation formats. It is important to identify the program, the interviewee, the interviewer, the date of broadcast, and if possible, the network or platform.

Television and Radio Interviews

When citing a television or radio interview, include the name of the interviewee, the title of the program, the specific segment (if applicable), the interviewer, the network, and the date of broadcast.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

5. Michelle Obama, interview by Oprah Winfrey, Oprah's Book Club, CBS, March 5, 2021.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Obama, Michelle. Interview by Oprah Winfrey. Oprah's Book Club. CBS, March 5, 2021.

Podcast Interviews

Citing podcast interviews is similar, focusing on the podcast title, episode title and number, the interviewee, and the date of release. If you are referencing a specific point, include a timestamp.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

6. Neil deGrasse Tyson, "Cosmos and Humanity," interview by Lex Fridman, The Lex Fridman Podcast, episode 285, October 10, 2022, 00:15:30.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Tyson, Neil deGrasse. "Cosmos and Humanity." Interview by Lex Fridman. The Lex Fridman Podcast, episode 285. October 10, 2022. 00:15:30.

Citing Interviews from Recorded Conversations

If you are referencing a recorded conversation that functions as an interview, but it might not be formally structured as such, the citation will depend on how it is presented and accessed. If it's a published recording, you will cite it like other published media.

Published Audio or Video Recordings

For interviews that are part of published audio or video collections, treat them as you would other recorded media. Key elements include the interviewee, the interviewer, the title of the recording, and the publication details.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

7. Brenda M. [pseudonym], interview by an anonymous researcher, conducted October 20, 1995, sound recording, Digital Archives, University Library.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Brenda M. Interview by an anonymous researcher. Conducted October 20, 1995. Sound recording. Digital Archives, University Library.

Citing Interviews Conducted via Electronic Communication

Interviews conducted through email, instant messaging, or other forms of electronic communication require careful citation. These are often treated similarly to unpublished personal interviews, with the emphasis on clarity in the note.

Email Interviews

For email interviews, include the interviewee's name, the fact that it was an email interview, and the date it was sent or received. If you have a transcript, you can reference it as you would for a personal interview.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

8. Dr. Anya Sharma, email interview by author, June 1, 2023.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Sharma, Dr. Anya. Email interview by author. June 1, 2023.

Instant Messaging Interviews

Interviews conducted via platforms like Slack, Discord, or other chat applications follow a similar pattern. Specify the platform and the date.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

9. John Doe, interview via Slack by author, May 20, 2023.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Doe, John. Interview via Slack by author. May 20, 2023.

Handling Difficulties and Special Cases

There are instances where citing interviews can become more complex. This might involve interviews where the interviewee requests anonymity, interviews conducted in a language other than the one your paper is written in, or interviews that are difficult to verify.

Anonymous Interviews

If an interviewee has requested anonymity, you should explain this in your note. Instead of the interviewee's name, use a descriptive pseudonym or a designation that reflects their role or the context of the interview. Ensure you have ethical justification for the anonymity and have followed appropriate guidelines regarding such requests.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

10. "Confidential Source," interview by author, July 1, 2023.

Example of a bibliography entry:

"Confidential Source." Interview by author. July 1, 2023.

Translated Interviews

If you are citing an interview that was originally conducted in another language and you are using a translation, it is best practice to cite the original source and indicate that you used a translation. If you conducted the translation yourself, state that. If it's a published translation, credit the translator.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

11. Kenji Tanaka, interview by Maria Rossi, conducted October 15, 2022, translated by author, transcript, 12.

Example of a bibliography entry:

Tanaka, Kenji. Interview by Maria Rossi. Conducted October 15, 2022. Translated by author. Transcript.

Interviews as Part of a Larger Work

Sometimes, an interview might be embedded within a longer article or report. In such cases, you would cite the primary work and then specify the interview within it, similar to citing a section of a book.

Example of a footnote or endnote:

12. "A Conversation with the Mayor," in *City Hall Reports*, by the Editorial Staff, 34-38 (City Publishing, 2022). This report includes an interview with Mayor Jane Smith.

Example of a bibliography entry:

"A Conversation with the Mayor." In *City Hall Reports*, 34-38. City Publishing, 2022.

Q: What is the primary difference between citing a published interview and an unpublished one in Chicago style?

A: The primary difference lies in the accessibility and the level of detail required. Published interviews can be located by your readers through standard publication information (like journal titles, book publishers, etc.), so the citation focuses on directing them to that publication. Unpublished interviews, which you conducted personally, are not publicly available, so the citation in the note emphasizes descriptive context (who, when, how) to establish the source's nature and credibility for your specific work.

Q: Do I always need to include the interviewer's name in a Chicago style citation for an interview?

A: You generally need to include the interviewer's name if it is not you and if it provides necessary context or attribution for the published work. For personal interviews you conducted, you would typically state "interview by author." For published interviews, the interviewer is often credited as part of the publication's authorship or byline.

Q: How do I cite an interview I conducted via email in Chicago style?

A: For an email interview, in the note, you would typically state the interviewee's full name, specify that it was an "email interview by author" (or by another identified interviewer), and provide the date. In the bibliography, it would be listed similarly, with the interviewee's last name first.

Q: What if the interview is part of a podcast episode? How do I cite that in Chicago style?

A: To cite a podcast interview in Chicago style, you would provide the interviewee's name, the title of the specific episode or interview segment, the name of the podcast, the episode number (if available), the host's name, the podcast network or platform, and the date of release. You can also include a timestamp if you are referencing a specific part of the interview.

Q: Should I include interviews I conducted in my bibliography if they are unpublished?

A: It is generally recommended to include significant unpublished interviews in your bibliography, especially if they form a substantial part of your research. This allows readers to see the range of your primary sources. However, if the interviews were very brief or only provided minor details, some scholars may opt to omit them from the bibliography while still properly citing them in the notes.

Q: How do I handle an interview where the person wants to remain anonymous in Chicago style?

A: If an interviewee requests anonymity, you should protect their identity. In your note, instead of their name, use a descriptive pseudonym or a designation like "Confidential Source" and clearly state that the interview was conducted anonymously. Ensure you have ethical grounds and necessary permissions for this anonymity.

Q: What if I am citing an interview that was conducted in a foreign language and I used a translator?

A: When citing a translated interview, you should ideally cite the original source and indicate that you are using a translation. If you personally translated it, state "translated by author." If a published translation exists, credit the translator and the publication details of the translation.

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