

CHICAGO STYLE CITATION EXAMPLES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES

HERE IS THE SEO-OPTIMIZED ARTICLE ON CHICAGO STYLE CITATION EXAMPLES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES.

UNDERSTANDING CHICAGO STYLE CITATION EXAMPLES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES

CHICAGO STYLE CITATION EXAMPLES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SCHOLARS, RESEARCHERS, AND STUDENTS ENGAGING WITH HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, AND ORIGINAL MATERIALS. ACCURATELY CITING THESE UNIQUE AND FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS ENSURES ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ALLOWS READERS TO LOCATE AND VERIFY YOUR EVIDENCE. THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE WILL DELVE INTO THE NUANCES OF CITING PRIMARY SOURCES IN CHICAGO STYLE, COVERING VARIOUS FORMATS SUCH AS MANUSCRIPTS, LETTERS, INTERVIEWS, AND PUBLISHED HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS. WE WILL EXPLORE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRIES, PROVIDING CLEAR, ACTIONABLE EXAMPLES TO SIMPLIFY YOUR CITATION PROCESS. MASTERING THESE EXAMPLES WILL EQUIP YOU TO PROPERLY ATTRIBUTE YOUR SOURCES AND STRENGTHEN THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR ACADEMIC WORK.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

UNDERSTANDING PRIMARY SOURCES IN CHICAGO STYLE

CORE COMPONENTS OF A CHICAGO STYLE CITATION FOR PRIMARY SOURCES

CITING UNPUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCES

CITING PUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCES

SPECIAL CASES AND VARIATIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PRIMARY SOURCE CITATIONS

UNDERSTANDING PRIMARY SOURCES IN CHICAGO STYLE

PRIMARY SOURCES ARE THE RAW MATERIALS OF HISTORY AND RESEARCH. THEY OFFER DIRECT, FIRSTHAND EVIDENCE ABOUT AN EVENT, PERSON, OBJECT, OR WORK OF ART. IN ACADEMIC WRITING, PARTICULARLY WHEN USING THE CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE (CMS), CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING AND CITING THESE SOURCES IS PARAMOUNT. CMS DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN NOTES-AND-BIBLIOGRAPHY AND AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEMS, WITH THE FORMER BEING MORE COMMON IN HUMANITIES DISCIPLINES WHERE PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL IS FREQUENTLY USED. THE GOAL IS TO PROVIDE ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR A READER TO FIND THE EXACT SOURCE YOU CONSULTED, WHETHER IT'S A HANDWRITTEN DIARY ENTRY OR A GOVERNMENT REPORT FROM A BYGONE ERA.

THE DEFINITION OF A PRIMARY SOURCE CAN BE BROAD. IT INCLUDES DOCUMENTS CREATED DURING THE TIME PERIOD BEING STUDIED, SUCH AS LETTERS, DIARIES, SPEECHES, INTERVIEWS, PHOTOGRAPHS, OFFICIAL RECORDS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM THE PERIOD, AND ORIGINAL CREATIVE WORKS. IT CAN ALSO ENCOMPASS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS, ORAL HISTORIES, AND EVEN SOME FORMS OF VISUAL ART WHEN ANALYZED AS EVIDENCE. UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF YOUR PRIMARY SOURCE WILL DICTATE THE SPECIFIC ELEMENTS REQUIRED IN YOUR CHICAGO STYLE CITATION, ENSURING PRECISION AND CLARITY.

CORE COMPONENTS OF A CHICAGO STYLE CITATION FOR PRIMARY SOURCES

WHETHER YOU ARE CREATING A FOOTNOTE/ENDNOTE OR A BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY, CERTAIN CORE COMPONENTS ARE GENERALLY REQUIRED FOR CHICAGO STYLE CITATIONS OF PRIMARY SOURCES. THESE ELEMENTS HELP READERS DISTINGUISH THE SOURCE FROM SECONDARY ANALYSES AND LOCATE IT. THE SPECIFIC ORDER AND INCLUSION OF THESE COMPONENTS CAN VARY SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF PRIMARY SOURCE AND WHETHER IT IS PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR NOTES

IN THE NOTES SYSTEM, THE INITIAL CITATION FOR A PRIMARY SOURCE PROVIDES MORE DETAIL THAN SUBSEQUENT CITATIONS.

KEY PIECES OF INFORMATION INCLUDE THE AUTHOR OR CREATOR OF THE SOURCE, THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT OR COLLECTION, THE DATE OF CREATION, AND SPECIFIC LOCATION INFORMATION SUCH AS ARCHIVAL COLLECTION NAMES, BOX NUMBERS, FOLDER NAMES, AND PAGE NUMBERS. FOR INTERVIEWS, THE INTERVIEWEE AND INTERVIEWER ARE CRUCIAL, ALONG WITH THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE INTERVIEW.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY AIMS TO BE MORE CONCISE BUT STILL COMPLETE. IT TYPICALLY INCLUDES THE AUTHOR OR CREATOR, THE TITLE (OFTEN ITALICIZED OR IN QUOTATION MARKS DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF SOURCE), THE DATE OF CREATION, AND INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE THE SOURCE IS HOUSED OR HOW IT WAS ACCESSED. FOR UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS, THIS OFTEN MEANS THE REPOSITORY NAME AND COLLECTION DETAILS. FOR PUBLISHED MATERIALS, IT WILL INCLUDE PUBLICATION INFORMATION.

CITING UNPUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCES

UNPUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCES, SUCH AS PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, DIARIES, MANUSCRIPTS, AND ORIGINAL RESEARCH NOTES, REQUIRE CAREFUL ATTRIBUTION TO THE ARCHIVE OR COLLECTION WHERE THEY ARE HOUSED. THE KEY IS TO GUIDE THE READER DIRECTLY TO THE PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL LOCATION OF THE DOCUMENT.

LETTERS AND PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

WHEN CITING A LETTER, YOU NEED TO IDENTIFY THE SENDER, RECIPIENT, DATE, AND THE COLLECTION WHERE THE LETTER IS PRESERVED. FOR NOTES, YOU WILL BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE ARCHIVAL LOCATION.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** LETTER FROM JANE ADDAMS TO JOHN DEWEY, APRIL 15, 1910, JANE ADDAMS PAPERS, BOX 12, FOLDER 5, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** ADDAMS, JANE. LETTER TO JOHN DEWEY, APRIL 15, 1910. JANE ADDAMS PAPERS, BOX 12, FOLDER 5. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

DIARIES AND JOURNALS

CITING A DIARY ENTRY REQUIRES IDENTIFYING THE DIARIST, THE SPECIFIC DATE OF THE ENTRY, AND THE COLLECTION CONTAINING THE DIARY. AGAIN, THE NOTE WILL BE MORE GRANULAR IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHIVAL MATERIALS.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** ENTRY OF JULY 4, 1863, DIARY OF SAMUEL JOHNSON, MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION, AMERICAN HISTORY ARCHIVES, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** JOHNSON, SAMUEL. DIARY, JULY 4, 1863. MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION. AMERICAN HISTORY ARCHIVES, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

MANUSCRIPTS AND UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

THIS CATEGORY ENCOMPASSES A WIDE RANGE OF MATERIALS, FROM ORIGINAL DRAFTS OF LITERARY WORKS TO UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS. THE CITATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE AUTHOR OF THE MANUSCRIPT, ITS TITLE (IF ANY), THE DATE OF CREATION, AND THE ARCHIVAL HOLDING INFORMATION.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, "THE GREAT GATSBY: EARLY DRAFT," N.D., F. SCOTT FITZGERALD PAPERS, BOX 3, FOLDER 7, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** FITZGERALD, F. SCOTT. "THE GREAT GATSBY: EARLY DRAFT." F. SCOTT FITZGERALD PAPERS, BOX 3, FOLDER 7. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

CITING PUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCES

PUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCES INCLUDE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, COLLECTIONS OF LETTERS, SPEECHES, OR INTERVIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPILED AND MADE AVAILABLE IN PUBLISHED FORM, SUCH AS BOOKS OR EDITED VOLUMES. THE CITATION FOR THESE OFTEN RESEMBLES THAT OF OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS BUT WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THE ORIGINAL CREATION DATE.

PUBLISHED COLLECTIONS OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

WHEN YOU ARE CITING A DOCUMENT FROM A PUBLISHED COLLECTION, YOU CITE THE SPECIFIC DOCUMENT AND THEN PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT THE COLLECTION IT APPEARS IN. IF YOU ARE CITING THE ENTIRE COLLECTION, YOU WOULD CITE THE EDITOR(S) OF THE COLLECTION.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** "DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS," JULY 19, 1848, IN *THE FEMINIST PAPERS: FROM ADAMS TO DE BEAUVOIR*, ED. ALICE ROSSI (NEW YORK: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1988), 416.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** "DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS." IN *THE FEMINIST PAPERS: FROM ADAMS TO DE BEAUVOIR*, EDITED BY ALICE ROSSI, 416. NEW YORK: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1988.

PUBLISHED SPEECHES AND WRITINGS

IF A SPEECH OR AN INDIVIDUAL WRITING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN A BOOK OR JOURNAL, YOU CITE IT AS YOU WOULD AN ARTICLE OR CHAPTER, NOTING THE ORIGINAL DATE OF DELIVERY OR CREATION.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** ABRAHAM LINCOLN, "GETTYSBURG ADDRESS," NOVEMBER 19, 1863, IN *SPEECHES AND WRITINGS* (NEW YORK: LIBRARY OF AMERICA, 1989), 216.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. "GETTYSBURG ADDRESS," NOVEMBER 19, 1863. IN *SPEECHES AND WRITINGS*, 216. NEW YORK: LIBRARY OF AMERICA, 1989.

PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS

WHEN CITING AN INTERVIEW THAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, WHETHER IN A BOOK, MAGAZINE, OR ONLINE, YOU WILL INCLUDE THE INTERVIEWEE, INTERVIEWER (IF SPECIFIED), THE TITLE OF THE INTERVIEW (IF IT HAS ONE), AND THE PUBLICATION DETAILS.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** MAYA ANGELOU, INTERVIEWED BY BILL MOYERS, "A CONVERSATION WITH MAYA ANGELOU," *BILL MOYERS JOURNAL*, PBS, OCTOBER 20, 1979.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** ANGELOU, MAYA. INTERVIEWED BY BILL MOYERS. "A CONVERSATION WITH MAYA ANGELOU." *BILL MOYERS JOURNAL*, PBS, OCTOBER 20, 1979.

SPECIAL CASES AND VARIATIONS

CHICAGO STYLE, WHILE DETAILED, IS ADAPTABLE. CERTAIN PRIMARY SOURCES, LIKE ORAL HISTORIES OR VISUAL MATERIALS, MAY REQUIRE SLIGHT ADJUSTMENTS TO THE STANDARD CITATION FORMAT. THE CORE PRINCIPLE REMAINS TO PROVIDE ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR RETRIEVAL AND VERIFICATION.

ORAL HISTORIES

ORAL HISTORIES ARE RECORDED INTERVIEWS. CITATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE THE INTERVIEWEE, THE INTERVIEWER, THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE INTERVIEW, AND HOW IT CAN BE ACCESSED (E.G., AN ARCHIVE, A TRANSCRIPT, A RECORDING).

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** MARIA GARCIA, ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW BY JUAN PEREZ, JUNE 5, 2020, INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE AT THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** GARCIA, MARIA. ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW BY JUAN PEREZ. JUNE 5, 2020. INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE AT THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VISUAL MATERIALS

WHEN CITING PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS, OR OTHER VISUAL PRIMARY SOURCES, YOU'LL NEED TO IDENTIFY THE CREATOR, THE TITLE OF THE WORK, THE DATE OF CREATION, AND ITS CURRENT LOCATION OR SOURCE.

- **NOTE EXAMPLE:** ANSEL ADAMS, *MOONRISE, HERNANDEZ, NEW MEXICO*, 1941, GELATIN SILVER PRINT, THE ANSEL ADAMS TRUST, THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY EXAMPLE:** ADAMS, ANSEL. *MOONRISE, HERNANDEZ, NEW MEXICO*. 1941. GELATIN SILVER PRINT. THE ANSEL ADAMS TRUST, THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA.

UNDERSTANDING THESE VARIATIONS ENSURES THAT EVEN THE MOST UNIQUE PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL CAN BE CITED ACCURATELY, RESPECTING ITS ORIGIN AND ALLOWING FUTURE RESEARCHERS TO TRACE YOUR STEPS EFFECTIVELY. CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES IS KEY TO PRODUCING CREDIBLE SCHOLARLY WORK.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CHICAGO STYLE CITATION EXAMPLES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES

Q: WHAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CITING AN UNPUBLISHED AND A PUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCE IN CHICAGO STYLE?

A: THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE LIES IN THE ACCESSIBILITY AND THE INFORMATION PROVIDED. UNPUBLISHED SOURCES REQUIRE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL LOCATION IN AN ARCHIVE OR COLLECTION, INCLUDING SPECIFIC BOX AND FOLDER NUMBERS. PUBLISHED SOURCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, INCLUDE STANDARD PUBLICATION DETAILS LIKE PUBLISHER, PLACE OF PUBLICATION, AND PAGE NUMBERS, AS THEY ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

Q: DO I ALWAYS NEED TO INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC ARCHIVE OR REPOSITORY FOR AN UNPUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCE IN MY BIBLIOGRAPHY?

A: YES, IT IS CRUCIAL TO INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE ARCHIVE, LIBRARY, OR REPOSITORY WHERE THE UNPUBLISHED PRIMARY SOURCE IS HOUSED IN YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY. THIS ALLOWS OTHER RESEARCHERS TO LOCATE THE MATERIAL. THE NOTE ENTRY MIGHT BE EVEN MORE SPECIFIC, DETAILING COLLECTION NAMES, BOX NUMBERS, AND FOLDER TITLES.

Q: HOW DO I CITE A PRIMARY SOURCE THAT I ACCESSED ONLINE THROUGH A DIGITAL ARCHIVE?

A: WHEN CITING A PRIMARY SOURCE ACCESSED ONLINE, INCLUDE ALL THE RELEVANT INFORMATION AS IF YOU WERE CITING THE ORIGINAL PHYSICAL DOCUMENT (AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, ETC.), FOLLOWED BY THE NAME OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE OR DATABASE, AND THEN A STABLE URL OR DOI IF AVAILABLE. IF A DIRECT URL IS NOT STABLE OR EASILY RETRIEVABLE, REFERENCING THE DATABASE NAME AND ACCESSION NUMBER MIGHT SUFFICE.

Q: WHAT IF THE PRIMARY SOURCE I AM USING HAS NO AUTHOR LISTED?

A: IF A PRIMARY SOURCE HAS NO DISCERNIBLE AUTHOR, YOU TYPICALLY BEGIN THE CITATION WITH THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF CITING AN ANONYMOUS LETTER OR AN UNSIGNED HISTORICAL PAMPHLET, THE TITLE WOULD COME FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE DATE AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT ITS ORIGIN OR LOCATION.

Q: HOW DO I CITE MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS FROM THE SAME ARCHIVAL COLLECTION IN CHICAGO STYLE?

A: FOR MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS FROM THE SAME COLLECTION, YOU CAN PROVIDE THE FULL ARCHIVAL DETAILS THE FIRST TIME YOU CITE A DOCUMENT FROM THAT COLLECTION. IN SUBSEQUENT NOTES, YOU CAN USE A SHORTENED FORM OF THE CITATION, REFERRING BACK TO THE COLLECTION NAME AND PROVIDING ONLY THE SPECIFIC DETAILS FOR THAT PARTICULAR DOCUMENT (E.G., DOCUMENT TITLE OR DATE, BOX, FOLDER).

[Chicago Style Citation Examples For Primary Sources](#)

Chicago Style Citation Examples For Primary Sources

Related Articles

- [chicago style book social science](#)
- [chicago style citation literature](#)
- [chicago style endnotes in google docs](#)

[Back to Home](#)