

chicago style citation examples for speeches

Chicago Style Citation Examples for Speeches: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago style citation examples for speeches provides a structured approach to acknowledging the sources of spoken word, ensuring academic integrity and proper attribution. Whether you are citing a historical address, a contemporary lecture, or a personal oral history, understanding the nuances of Chicago's author-date or notes-bibliography system is crucial for academic and professional writing. This guide will delve into the essential components of citing speeches in Chicago style, covering various scenarios from published texts to personal interviews. We will explore the specific elements required for accurate citations, the differences between in-text citations and bibliographical entries, and common pitfalls to avoid. By mastering these principles, you can confidently integrate spoken word into your research and scholarly work.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Citation for Speeches

Chicago style, also known as the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Both systems aim to provide readers with sufficient information to locate the original source. When citing speeches, the core principle remains consistent: identify the speaker, the title of the speech (if any), the context in which it was delivered, and the date and location of its delivery. The specific formatting will depend on whether the speech has been formally

published, remains unpublished, or was accessed through digital means.

It is important to distinguish between a speech as a performance and a speech as a textual artifact. While the delivery itself is ephemeral, the content of a speech can be preserved through recordings, transcripts, or written versions. Chicago style accommodates these different forms of preservation. The complexity of citing speeches often arises from the variety of ways they are recorded and disseminated. A speech delivered at a conference and later published in a proceedings volume will have a different citation than a live televised address or an interview conducted for a documentary.

Citing Published Speeches in Chicago Style

When a speech has been published, either as a standalone document, within a book, or in a journal, Chicago style offers clear guidelines. The key is to treat the published speech as you would any other published work, but with specific attention to the details of its origin as a speech. This often involves including the speaker's name, the title of the speech, and publication details such as the book title, journal name, volume, issue, page numbers, publisher, and year.

Speeches in Books

If a speech is included as a chapter or section within a larger book, the citation will typically include the speaker's name, the speech title, the book title, editor(s) (if applicable), page numbers, and the publication information for the book. For example, in the notes-bibliography system, a note might look like this:

- Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream," in *Great Speeches of the 20th Century*, ed. John Smith (New York: Penguin Books, 1999), 150-155.

In the author-date system, this would be adapted accordingly, with the speaker and year being central to the in-text citation.

Speeches in Journals or Periodicals

Speeches published in academic journals or other periodicals follow a similar pattern to book citations, but with journal-specific details. The citation will include the speaker, speech title, journal title, volume, issue number, publication year, and page numbers where the speech can be found.

- Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?," *Journal of American History* 45, no. 2 (2010):

This format ensures that readers can locate the specific issue of the journal and the exact pages containing the speech.

Citing Unpublished Speeches in Chicago Style

Unpublished speeches present a unique challenge because they may not have undergone formal editing or publication processes. The citation must therefore rely on information about the original delivery and any available manuscript or recording. This often involves noting the date and place of delivery, as well as the source of the unpublished text or recording.

Manuscript Speeches

If you have access to a manuscript of an unpublished speech, your citation should reflect this. You will need to identify the speaker, the title of the speech, the date of delivery, and the repository or collection where the manuscript is held, along with any identifying information for the manuscript itself.

- Eleanor Roosevelt, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights," speech delivered at the United Nations General Assembly, Paris, December 10, 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Hyde Park, NY: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

Providing the location of the manuscript is crucial for researchers wishing to consult the original document.

Speech Recordings

When citing a speech from an audio or video recording that has not been formally published, the citation should include details about the recording itself. This might involve the speaker, speech title, date of delivery, type of recording (e.g., audio cassette, digital file), and the collection or archive where the recording is housed.

- Nelson Mandela, "Address to the Nation," January 1, 1995, audio recording, Nelson Mandela Foundation Archive, Johannesburg.

If the recording is available online (but not formally published), this would fall under the

category of citing online sources.

Citing Speeches Accessed Online

The digital age has made many speeches more accessible than ever before, often through websites of institutions, archives, or university repositories. When citing a speech found online, it is essential to provide a stable URL or persistent identifier and the date you accessed the material.

Published Speeches Online

If a published speech is available online, your citation should incorporate both the publication details and the online access information. This ensures that readers can find the original published version if they prefer, while also providing a direct link for convenience.

- Barack Obama, "A More Perfect Union," speech delivered at the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, March 18, 2008, C-SPAN Video Library, accessed October 27, 2023, <http://www.c-span.org/video/?279118-1/more-perfect-union>.

Note that while hyperlinks are used here for illustrative purposes, in actual Chicago-style citations within a document, you would generally avoid them unless specifically permitted.

Archived Speeches Online

Many historical speeches are digitized and made available through online archives. The citation should reflect the speaker, speech title, date of delivery, the name of the archive or website, and the URL, along with the access date.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Pearl Harbor Address to the Nation," December 8, 1941, National Archives, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/fdr-pearl-harbor-address>.

This approach helps to standardize how digital archival materials are referenced.

Citing Oral Histories and Personal Interviews

Oral histories and personal interviews are forms of spoken communication that are often crucial for research. Chicago style provides specific guidelines for these types of sources. The citation should include the interviewee or interviewee(s), the interviewer (if known and relevant), the date of the interview, and the location or medium of the interview.

Personal Interviews

For interviews you conducted yourself, the citation will include your name as the interviewer, the name of the interviewee, the date, and the fact that it was a personal interview. In the notes-bibliography system, a footnote might look like this:

- Interview with Jane Doe, by author, May 15, 2023.

For your bibliography, it would be simplified:

- Doe, Jane. Interview by author. May 15, 2023.

Oral History Projects

If you are citing an interview from a formal oral history project or archive, you will need to include details about the project and the specific interview. This includes the name of the interviewee, the interviewer, the date of the interview, the title of the oral history project, and the repository where the interview is housed.

- Maria Garcia, interview by David Lee, June 20, 2018, Latin American Oral History Project, University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library.

This level of detail ensures that other researchers can locate the specific interview within the larger project.

Notes-Bibliography System for Speeches

The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text and a bibliography at the end of the document to list all sources consulted. For speeches, the notes provide detailed information, while the bibliography entry is a condensed version.

Footnote/Endnote Examples

Below are examples of how a speech might be cited in the first and subsequent notes, and in the bibliography.

- **First Note:** 1. Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream," August 28, 1963, Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C., King Center Archives.
- **Subsequent Note:** 2. King, "I Have a Dream."
- **Bibliography Entry:** King, Martin Luther Jr. "I Have a Dream." August 28, 1963. Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. King Center Archives.

Notice how the bibliography entry typically omits the repetition of the speaker's name if it's already listed alphabetically.

Variations in Notes

The specific elements included in a note will vary depending on the nature of the speech and its availability. For a published speech in a book, the note would include book details as previously shown. For an unpublished manuscript, it would include repository information. The goal is always to provide enough context for the reader to find the source.

Author-Date System for Speeches

The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication or delivery, along with page numbers if applicable. A reference list at the end of the document provides full publication details for all cited sources.

In-Text Citation Examples

In-text citations are concise and directly linked to the reference list.

- (King 1963)
- (Roosevelt 1948)
- (Obama 2008)

If you are citing a specific part of a speech, you might include page numbers if available, as in the case of published texts.

Reference List Examples

The reference list for the author-date system mirrors the bibliography in the notes-bibliography system in terms of the information provided, but is organized alphabetically by author's last name.

- King, Martin Luther Jr. 1963. "I Have a Dream." August 28. Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. King Center Archives.
- Obama, Barack. 2008. "A More Perfect Union." March 18. C-SPAN Video Library.
- Roosevelt, Eleanor. 1948. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." December 10. Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

The inclusion of the year directly after the author's name is a hallmark of this system.

Common Challenges and Solutions

Citing speeches can be complex due to the varied nature of their preservation and dissemination. One common challenge is determining which information is most critical for the citation when multiple versions of a speech exist. The general rule of thumb is to cite the version you consulted. If you accessed a transcript of a speech that was originally broadcast on television, you would cite the transcript, but you might also note its original broadcast.

Another challenge arises with very old speeches where documentation might be sparse. In such cases, Chicago style encourages citing the best available information, even if it means acknowledging some uncertainty. For instance, if the exact date of delivery is unknown but the year is confirmed, you would use the year. If a speech was delivered in a public forum but not formally published or archived, and you only have a reliable recollection or secondary account, you would cite that secondary source, explaining its nature.

When dealing with speeches that have been translated, it is crucial to cite the translated version you used, including the translator's name and publication details of the translation. If the original language is important for your research, you may also want to

mention the original title or provide information about the original publication if it differs significantly from the translated version. Always prioritize clarity and provide readers with the means to locate your source.

Identifying Key Information

To effectively cite a speech, always try to identify:

- The speaker
- The title of the speech (if any)
- The date of delivery
- The location of delivery
- The format of the source (e.g., book, journal article, manuscript, recording, website)
- Publication or archival details
- Access information (URL, repository name, accession numbers)

Gathering these details systematically will streamline the citation process and ensure accuracy.

Best Practices for Accuracy

Maintaining accuracy in Chicago style citation examples for speeches involves meticulous attention to detail. Double-check all names, dates, titles, and publication information. When in doubt, consult the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* or reliable academic citation guides. Consistency in your chosen citation system (notes-bibliography or author-date) throughout your work is also paramount for a professional presentation.

FAQ

Q: What is the most crucial piece of information when citing a speech in Chicago style?

A: The most crucial piece of information is the speaker's name, followed closely by the title of the speech and the date of its delivery. This allows for immediate identification of the source of the spoken word.

Q: How do I cite a speech that I heard live but wasn't recorded or published?

A: For speeches heard live that were not recorded or published, you would typically cite them as personal communication. This involves noting the speaker, the date, and the nature of the communication (e.g., "Personal interview," "Lecture"). The exact format in Chicago style would be similar to citing a personal interview, often within a footnote or endnote, and potentially omitted from the bibliography depending on the style guide's specific recommendations for personal communications.

Q: Is it necessary to include the location of a speech's delivery in the citation?

A: Including the location of a speech's delivery is often recommended, especially for unpublished speeches or those delivered at significant events. It provides valuable context and helps researchers identify the specific instance of the speech being cited. For widely known speeches, it might be less critical if the speech is readily identifiable by title and speaker alone.

Q: How does Chicago style handle speeches that have been translated?

A: When citing a translated speech, you must cite the translated version you consulted. This means including the translator's name and the publication details of the translated work. It is also good practice to include the original title of the speech if known and easily accessible, along with the original speaker's name.

Q: Should I use the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system for citing speeches?

A: The choice between the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system depends on the requirements of your instructor, publisher, or the specific discipline. Both systems are fully supported by Chicago style and are equally effective for citing speeches, provided they are used consistently and correctly.

Q: What if a speech has multiple versions (e.g., a written text and an audio recording)? Which version should I cite?

A: You should cite the version of the speech that you actually consulted for your research. If you used a written transcript, cite the transcript. If you relied on an audio recording, cite the recording. If both were available and you used both, you might need to cite both or choose the one most relevant to your discussion, clearly indicating which version you are referencing.

Q: How do I cite a speech found on a public website like YouTube?

A: For speeches found on public websites like YouTube, treat it as an online source. Include the speaker's name, the title of the speech (or a description if no title is given), the title of the website, the publisher (if different from the website title), the date of publication or upload (if available), and a stable URL. Crucially, include the date you accessed the material. For example: John Doe, "Keynote Address," YouTube video, posted by "Organization Name," October 15, 2023, , accessed October 27, 2023.

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