

chicago style essay citation examples

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides two distinct citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Understanding which system to use and how to implement it correctly is crucial for academic integrity and clear communication. This comprehensive guide will delve into Chicago style essay citation examples, covering both the notes-bibliography format and the author-date format, offering detailed explanations and practical illustrations for various source types. We will explore the nuances of in-text citations, footnotes, endnotes, and the bibliography, as well as the parenthetical citations and reference lists for the author-date system. Mastering these elements ensures your essays are properly credited and adhere to scholarly standards, making your research accessible and verifiable for your readers.

Table of Contents

- Understanding Chicago Style Citation Systems
- The Notes-Bibliography System: In-Depth Examples
- Footnotes and Endnotes in Chicago Style
- Crafting a Chicago Style Bibliography
- The Author-Date System: A Practical Guide
- Parenthetical Citations and Reference Lists
- Common Source Types in Chicago Style
- Books: Citations and Entries
- Journal Articles: Citations and Entries
- Websites and Online Sources: Citations and Entries
- Other Common Source Material Examples
- Tips for Accurate Chicago Style Citation

Understanding Chicago Style Citation Systems

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary methods for citing sources within academic papers: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. The choice between these two systems often depends on the specific discipline or the publisher's requirements. Both systems aim to provide readers with the necessary information to locate the original sources and to avoid plagiarism by giving credit to original authors.

The notes-bibliography system is commonly used in the humanities, such as literature, history, and the arts. It relies on numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, accompanied by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the paper. This system allows for more detailed explanatory notes or digressions if needed, without disrupting the flow of the main text. The author-date system, on the other hand, is more prevalent in the social sciences and natural sciences. It uses brief parenthetical citations within the text that refer to a corresponding entry in a reference list at the end of the document.

The Notes-Bibliography System: In-Depth Examples

The notes-bibliography system is characterized by its use of numbered notes, either footnotes placed at the bottom of the page or endnotes collected at the end of the document. Each note corresponds to a superscript number placed in the text immediately after the borrowed information. The first citation of a source in a note is typically in a full form, while subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened.

Footnotes and Endnotes in Chicago Style

When citing a source for the first time using a footnote or endnote, you will generally include the author's full name, the title of the work (italicized for books and articles, in quotation marks for essays or chapters), publication details (city of publication, publisher, year), and page number(s). For subsequent citations of the same source, a shortened form is used, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number.

For example, a first note for a book might look like this:

- 1. Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, trans. Alan Sheridan (New York: Vintage Books, 1995), 32.

A subsequent note for the same book would be shortened:

- 2. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, 78.

For journal articles, the first note would include the author, article title in quotation marks, journal title in italics, volume and issue numbers, publication date, and page number. Subsequent notes would follow a similar shortened format.

Crafting a Chicago Style Bibliography

The bibliography, appearing at the end of the essay, lists all the sources cited in the paper. Unlike the notes, the bibliography is arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. The format for each entry closely mirrors the full note format, with a key difference: the author's last name comes first, followed by a comma, then the first name. Entries are typically single-spaced within the entry and double-spaced between entries, with a hanging indent for all lines after the first.

A sample bibliography entry for a book:

- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*.

Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.

A sample bibliography entry for a journal article:

- Smith, John. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Journal of Communication Studies* 45, no. 2 (2021): 150-175.

The Author-Date System: A Practical Guide

The author-date system, also known as parenthetical citation, replaces the detailed notes with brief in-text citations. These citations typically include the author's last name and the year of publication, and sometimes the page number, enclosed in parentheses. This system requires a corresponding reference list at the end of the paper, which provides full publication details for all cited sources.

Parenthetical Citations and Reference Lists

In the author-date system, when you refer to a source, you would insert a parenthetical citation directly after the relevant information. For instance, if you are citing information from a book by Jane Doe published in 2020, the in-text citation might appear as (Doe 2020) or (Doe 2020, 45) if you are referencing a specific page.

The reference list, similar in function to the bibliography in the notes-bibliography system, is alphabetized by author's last name. However, the format for entries differs slightly. For books, the author's name, followed by the publication year in parentheses, the title italicized, and then the city of publication and publisher. For journal articles, the author's name, year in parentheses, article title in quotation marks, journal title italicized, volume and issue numbers, and page numbers.

Sample reference list entry for a book:

- Doe, Jane. 2020. *Understanding Research Methods*. Boston: Academic Press.

Sample reference list entry for a journal article:

- Miller, Sarah. 2019. "The Evolution of Urban Planning." *Urban Studies Journal* 56, no. 3: 321-345.

Common Source Types in Chicago Style

Mastering citations for various source types is essential for a well-researched essay. Chicago style provides specific formats for books, journal articles, websites, and other materials.

Books: Citations and Entries

For books in the notes-bibliography system, the first note includes the author's full name, the book's title in italics, publication information (city, publisher, year), and the specific page number. Subsequent notes use a shortened format. The bibliography entry reverses the author's name and omits the page number.

For books in the author-date system, the in-text citation is (Author Year, Page). The reference list entry includes the author's name, the year in parentheses, the book title in italics, and publication details.

Journal Articles: Citations and Entries

When citing journal articles, both systems require similar information: author's name, article title (in quotation marks), journal title (in italics), volume and issue numbers, publication date, and page numbers. The format of the note or parenthetical citation and the bibliography or reference list entry will vary slightly between the two systems.

Websites and Online Sources: Citations and Entries

Citing online sources requires careful attention to detail. For websites, include the author or organization, title of the specific page or article (in quotation marks), website name (in italics), publication or last updated date if available, and a URL. For notes, you may also include an access date. In the author-date system, the URL is typically not included in the reference list entry unless essential for retrieval.

Other Common Source Material Examples

Chicago style also provides guidance for citing a wide range of other materials, including:

- Newspaper articles
- Magazine articles
- Book chapters

- Dissertations and theses
- Audiovisual materials
- Personal communications

Each of these requires a specific formatting convention to ensure clarity and accuracy. For instance, newspaper articles often include the publication name, date, and section/page numbers. Book chapters require citing the chapter author and the editor/title of the collection.

Tips for Accurate Chicago Style Citation

Achieving accuracy in Chicago style citations involves meticulous attention to detail. Always double-check names, titles, dates, and page numbers. Consistency is key; once you choose a system (notes-bibliography or author-date), adhere to it throughout your paper. Understanding the differences between first and subsequent notes, or between bibliography and reference list entries, is crucial. Familiarize yourself with the specific requirements for different source types, as slight variations can make a significant difference in adherence to the style guide.

Consulting the official Chicago Manual of Style or reputable online resources dedicated to CMOS can be invaluable for resolving complex citation issues. Paying close attention to punctuation, capitalization, and the use of italics or quotation marks will ensure your citations are professional and correct. Ultimately, accurate citation is not just about following rules; it's about demonstrating respect for intellectual property and enabling your readers to engage with your research effectively.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems in Chicago style?

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text and how the source information is presented. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for citations and a bibliography at the end. The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year) and a reference list at the end.

Q: When should I use the notes-bibliography system

versus the author-date system for my Chicago style essay?

A: The notes-bibliography system is generally preferred in the humanities (literature, history, arts), while the author-date system is more common in the social sciences and natural sciences. Always check your professor's or publisher's guidelines for the required system.

Q: How do I format a book citation in a Chicago style footnote for the first time?

A: For a first-time footnote citation of a book, you would include the author's full name, the book's title in italics, the city of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s). For example: 1. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2003), 55.

Q: What is the correct format for a shortened note for a book previously cited in Chicago style?

A: A shortened note typically includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the book's title (if it's long), and the page number. For example: 2. Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 120.

Q: How do I cite a journal article in a Chicago style bibliography entry?

A: A Chicago style bibliography entry for a journal article includes the author's last name, first name, the article title in quotation marks, the journal title in italics, the volume and issue numbers, the publication year, and the page range of the article. For example: Smith, John. "The Impact of Climate Change." *Environmental Science Journal* 30, no. 4 (2022): 45-67.

Q: How do I format an in-text citation for a website in the author-date system of Chicago style?

A: In the author-date system, a website citation is typically (Author or Organization Year). If there is no specific author, use the organization name. If no publication date is available, you may use (n.d.) for "no date." For example: (Smith 2023) or (World Health Organization n.d.).

Q: What is the difference between a bibliography and

a reference list in Chicago style?

A: A bibliography is used with the notes-bibliography system and lists all sources consulted, not just those cited, and is formatted in a specific way. A reference list is used with the author-date system and lists only the sources cited in the paper, with entries that begin with the publication year.

Q: How should I handle multiple authors for a source in Chicago style citations?

A: For two authors, list both names in notes and bibliographies/reference lists, separated by "and." For three or more authors, list the first author's full name followed by "et al." in notes and in the bibliography/reference list.

Q: What information is essential for citing a book chapter in Chicago style?

A: For a book chapter, you need the chapter author's name, the chapter title (in quotation marks), the book's editor(s) if applicable, the book's title (in italics), and the page numbers for the chapter, in addition to publication details.

[Chicago Style Essay Citation Examples](#)

Chicago Style Essay Citation Examples

Related Articles

- [chicago style endnotes example](#)
- [chicago style author date for specific edition](#)
- [chicago style bibliography formatting](#)

[Back to Home](#)