

chicago style paraphrase citation guide

Mastering the Chicago Style Paraphrase Citation Guide

chicago style paraphrase citation guide is an essential resource for academic writers aiming to accurately attribute ideas and information borrowed from other sources. Proper citation prevents plagiarism, lends credibility to your work, and allows your readers to locate the original material. This comprehensive guide will navigate you through the nuances of paraphrasing within the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), covering the fundamental principles, the mechanics of in-text citations, and the crucial distinction between footnotes and endnotes. Understanding these elements ensures your academic integrity and enhances the clarity of your research. We will delve into the specifics of when and how to paraphrase, the components of a Chicago-style citation, and practical examples to solidify your understanding, making this an indispensable tool for any student or researcher working with Chicago style.

Table of Contents

Understanding Paraphrasing in Chicago Style

The Purpose of Paraphrasing

Key Differences Between Paraphrasing and Quoting

In-Text Citations in Chicago Style: The Author-Date System

Basic Author-Date Citation Format

Citing Multiple Authors

Citing Indirect Sources

The Role of the Bibliography

Footnotes and Endnotes: An Alternative to Author-Date

When to Use Footnotes/Endnotes for Paraphrased Material

Footnote/Endnote Citation Structure

Common Scenarios for Chicago Style Paraphrase Citation

Paraphrasing a Single Source

Paraphrasing Multiple Sources in a Single Sentence

Paraphrasing and Subsequent Citations of the Same Source

Ensuring Accuracy and Clarity in Your Chicago Style Paraphrasing

Avoiding Plagiarism Through Effective Paraphrasing

Referencing the Chicago Manual of Style

Understanding Paraphrasing in Chicago Style

Paraphrasing is the act of restating someone else's ideas, arguments, or information in your own words and sentence structure. It is a fundamental skill in academic writing, allowing you to integrate source material seamlessly into your own text while demonstrating comprehension. In the Chicago Manual of Style, paraphrasing is treated with the same rigor as direct quotation when it comes to attribution. The goal is to convey the original author's meaning without directly copying their language.

The Purpose of Paraphrasing

The primary purpose of paraphrasing is to synthesize information from various sources into your own narrative. It allows you to explain complex ideas in a manner that fits the flow and tone of your paper. Moreover, effective paraphrasing demonstrates your ability to understand and interpret source material, integrating it smoothly into your argument. It can also help you avoid over-reliance on direct quotations, which can sometimes disrupt the rhythm of your writing.

Key Differences Between Paraphrasing and Quoting

While both paraphrasing and quoting require citation, they differ significantly in their execution. Quoting involves using the exact words from a source, enclosed in quotation marks. Paraphrasing, on the other hand, requires you to rephrase the idea entirely in your own language. A good paraphrase captures the essence of the original text but is distinct in its wording and sentence construction. Misrepresenting the original author's intent through inaccurate paraphrasing is a form of plagiarism, underscoring the importance of careful attention to meaning.

In-Text Citations in Chicago Style: The Author-Date System

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary systems for citation: the notes-bibliography system (using footnotes or endnotes) and the author-date system. For paraphrasing, the author-date system is often employed in scientific and social science fields, providing a concise way to indicate the source of information directly within the text. This system requires parenthetical citations that include the author's last name and the publication year, followed by page numbers when necessary.

Basic Author-Date Citation Format

When paraphrasing a source using the author-date system, you will typically include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number(s) from which the paraphrased information was drawn. This information is enclosed in parentheses and placed at the end of the sentence or clause containing the paraphrased material.

For example, if you are paraphrasing an idea from a book by John Smith published in 2020 on page 45, the citation would look like this: (Smith 2020, 45).

Citing Multiple Authors

When a work has multiple authors, the citation format adjusts accordingly. For two authors, list both last names connected by "and": (Smith and Jones 2021, 112). For three or more authors, list the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the year: (Johnson et al. 2019, 78). Always refer to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style for the most precise guidelines on citing multiple authors, as conventions can evolve.

Citing Indirect Sources

Citing an indirect source—when you are referencing a work that is cited in another source you have read—requires careful attention. In the author-date system, you would typically cite the original author and work, followed by "as cited in" and the details of the source you consulted. The bibliography would list only the source you actually read. For instance: (Davis 1998, as cited in Miller 2015, 205). This ensures that your readers know you did not consult the original work directly.

The Role of the Bibliography

Whether you use the author-date system or the notes-bibliography system, a bibliography is an essential component of Chicago-style documentation. The bibliography appears at the end of your paper and lists all the sources you have cited. For the author-date system, the bibliography entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. Each entry provides full publication details, allowing your readers to locate the original sources.

Footnotes and Endnotes: An Alternative to Author-Date

While the author-date system is common in some disciplines, the notes-bibliography system, utilizing footnotes or endnotes, is also widely accepted and often preferred in the humanities. In this system, a superscript number is placed in the text after the paraphrased material, corresponding to a numbered note at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the document (endnote). These notes provide the bibliographic information.

When to Use Footnotes/Endnotes for Paraphrased Material

Footnotes and endnotes are used to provide detailed source information for any material—whether quoted or paraphrased—that is not common knowledge. Each distinct piece of borrowed information requires a corresponding note. For paraphrased ideas, the note will contain the author's name, the title of the work, publication details, and the specific page number(s) where the idea can be found.

Footnote/Endnote Citation Structure

The structure of a footnote or endnote for a paraphrased source is more detailed than an author-date parenthetical citation. The first time a source is cited, the note includes the author's full name, the title of the work (*italicized* for books and articles in collections, in quotation marks for articles in periodicals), publication information (place, publisher, year), and the specific page number. Subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened to the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number, or use the abbreviation "ibid." if it refers to the immediately preceding note.

For example, a first footnote citation for a book might look like:

1. John Doe, *The Art of Writing* (New York: Academic Press, 2022), 78.

A subsequent citation for the same source, if not immediately following the first, might be:

2. Doe, *Art of Writing*, 95.

If the second citation refers to the immediately preceding note, it would be:

3. *Ibid.*, 95.

Common Scenarios for Chicago Style Paraphrase Citation

Navigating different citation scenarios can be challenging. Understanding how to properly cite paraphrased material in various contexts is crucial for maintaining academic integrity and producing a polished research paper. This section will address some of the most frequent situations writers encounter when paraphrasing and citing using the Chicago Manual of Style.

Paraphrasing a Single Source

When you paraphrase a single idea or a passage from one source, the citation should be placed immediately after the paraphrased text. Ensure that the citation accurately reflects the author, year (for author-date), and specific page number. This direct attribution helps readers pinpoint the origin of the information.

Paraphrasing Multiple Sources in a Single Sentence

It is possible, and often desirable for conciseness, to paraphrase information from multiple sources within a single sentence or clause. In such cases, each piece of information that comes from a different source must be attributed to its original author. This often results in multiple parenthetical citations within a single sentence, typically ordered by author or in the order they appear in the text. For example: (Smith 2020, 45; Jones 2021, 112).

Paraphrasing and Subsequent Citations of the Same Source

Once a source has been cited, subsequent references to that same source require a shorter citation format in the author-date system. After the initial full citation, you can use just the author's last name and the page number, or if the author and year are the same, you might need to include a shortened title. In the notes-bibliography system, the use of shortened notes or "ibid." simplifies repeated citations. Always ensure consistency in your chosen method.

Ensuring Accuracy and Clarity in Your Chicago Style Paraphrasing

The effectiveness of your paraphrasing and citations hinges on accuracy and clarity. Inaccurate paraphrasing can distort the original author's meaning, leading to misinterpretation and, inadvertently, plagiarism. Clarity in citation ensures that your readers can easily follow your references and find the source material themselves.

Avoiding Plagiarism Through Effective Paraphrasing

The most critical aspect of paraphrasing is avoiding plagiarism. This means not only using your own words but also significantly altering the sentence structure of the original text. Simply changing a few words here and there is insufficient and can still be considered plagiarism. It is essential to understand the source material thoroughly and then express that understanding in your unique voice and style. Always err on the side of caution and cite even when you are uncertain whether attribution is strictly necessary.

Referencing the Chicago Manual of Style

For definitive guidance on any aspect of Chicago-style citation, including the intricacies of paraphrasing and citation formats for various source types, the official Chicago Manual of Style is the ultimate authority. Consulting the latest edition ensures that you are adhering to the most current standards and conventions. Familiarity with its detailed explanations and examples will significantly enhance your ability to produce well-documented and credible academic work.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between paraphrasing and summarizing in Chicago style?

A: In Chicago style, both paraphrasing and summarizing require citation. However, paraphrasing restates a specific passage or idea from a source in your own words, typically maintaining a similar length to the original. Summarizing, on the other hand, condenses the main points of a larger work or a significant portion of it into a much shorter, general overview, also with proper citation.

Q: When do I need to include a page number when paraphrasing in Chicago style using the author-date system?

A: You must include a page number when paraphrasing in the Chicago author-date system if the idea or information can be located on a specific page in the original source. This is standard practice for all paraphrased material to ensure readers can find the exact location of the information.

Q: Can I use "et al." when paraphrasing a source with more than three authors in Chicago style's author-date system?

A: Yes, in Chicago style's author-date system, for sources with three or more authors, you use the first author's last name followed by "et al." in both in-text citations and the bibliography.

Q: What is the difference between a footnote citation and an endnote citation in Chicago style for paraphrased material?

A: The content and format of a footnote and an endnote citation for paraphrased material are identical. The only difference is their location within the document: footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the

citation is referenced, while endnotes are collected at the end of the chapter or the entire document.

Q: How do I cite a website I paraphrased from using Chicago style?

A: When paraphrasing from a website using the Chicago author-date system, the citation typically includes the author's name (if available), the year of publication or last update, and a page number or paragraph number if the website provides them. If an author or year is not available, you might use the title of the page or organization name. The bibliography entry will provide the URL. For the notes-bibliography system, the note will include full details, including the URL and access date.

Q: Is it acceptable to paraphrase an entire book in Chicago style without citing every single idea?

A: No, it is never acceptable to paraphrase an entire book without citing every significant idea, argument, or piece of information that is not common knowledge. Each distinct point borrowed from the source requires a specific citation to avoid plagiarism, regardless of whether you are paraphrasing or quoting.

Q: What if the source I paraphrased from has no author listed?

A: If a source has no author listed, Chicago style dictates that you use the title of the work in place of the author's name in your citations. For the author-date system, the title (or a shortened version) will appear in the parenthetical citation. In the notes-bibliography system, the title will start the note.

Q: How do I cite a paraphrased idea that is mentioned in passing in a longer work?

A: Even if an idea is mentioned in passing, it still requires proper citation in Chicago style. In the author-date system, you would include the author and year, along with the page number where the idea is discussed. For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote or endnote is necessary, specifying the page number.

[Chicago Style Paraphrase Citation Guide](#)

Chicago Style Paraphrase Citation Guide

Related Articles

- [chicago style paraphrasing tips chicago](#)
- [chicago style proofreading for websites](#)
- [chicago style preface for edited collection](#)

[Back to Home](#)