

chicago style parenthetical citation for interview

Mastering the Chicago Style Parenthetical Citation for Interviews

chicago style parenthetical citation for interview involves a specific set of guidelines designed to accurately attribute information obtained directly from individuals through interviews. This method is crucial for academic integrity, ensuring that your readers can trace the origin of every piece of data or statement that isn't common knowledge. Unlike citing published works, interviews require careful consideration of how to identify the speaker and the context of their contribution within your text. This comprehensive guide will delve into the nuances of creating effective parenthetical citations for interviews in Chicago style, covering both author-date and notes-bibliography systems. We will explore the essential components of an interview citation, the differences in formatting for published versus unpublished interviews, and how to handle situations where an interview is accessed indirectly. By understanding these principles, you can confidently integrate interview material into your research and adhere to scholarly standards.

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Understanding Parenthetical Citations in Chicago Style

Parenthetical citations serve as a concise in-text reference, directing readers to a more complete entry in your bibliography or reference list. In Chicago style, these citations are typically brief, appearing immediately after the quoted or paraphrased material. Their primary function is to provide immediate attribution to the source, preventing plagiarism and allowing for easy verification of information. The goal is to offer enough information within the parentheses to distinguish the source from others in your work, without disrupting the flow of your prose.

The complexity of parenthetical citations can vary depending on the type of source. For interviews, which are direct communications, the citation needs to clearly identify the interviewee and, if applicable, the specific part of

the interview being referenced. The level of detail required in the parenthetical citation itself will also depend on which of the two Chicago style systems you are employing: the author-date system or the notes-bibliography system.

The Two Chicago Style Systems: Author-Date vs. Notes-Bibliography

Chicago style offers two primary citation systems, each with its own approach to in-text referencing. Understanding these differences is fundamental to correctly citing an interview parenthetically.

The Author-Date System

In the author-date system, parenthetical citations primarily include the author's last name and the year of publication or creation. However, for interviews, where the "author" is the interviewee, this structure adapts. The citation will typically include the interviewee's last name and the date the interview took place. This system is more common in the sciences and social sciences.

The Notes-Bibliography System

The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes to provide source information. While parenthetical citations are less common in this system for general sources, when used for interviews, they function similarly to the author-date system but might reference a specific note number if a full note has already been established. However, the more common approach in this system is to rely on the footnote or endnote for attribution, with a brief in-text indicator like "interview with [Interviewee's Name]" if necessary to clarify who is being cited.

Essential Components of an Interview Citation

Regardless of the Chicago style system used, a comprehensive interview citation aims to provide enough information for the reader to locate the source. The exact format will vary, but certain key elements are almost always necessary.

Identifying the Interviewee

The most critical element is the name of the person you interviewed. This is usually presented with their first name followed by their last name, or vice versa, depending on the specific system and context. In parenthetical citations, you will typically use the last name to refer to the interviewee.

Date of the Interview

The date the interview was conducted is crucial for establishing the temporal context of the information provided. This is especially important if an interviewee has a long or evolving history on a topic.

Method of Interview

While not always explicitly stated in the parenthetical citation itself, knowing whether the interview was conducted in person, via phone, email, or video call informs how you might describe it in a bibliography or note. This detail is essential for completeness in the full citation.

Location of the Interview (if applicable)

For unpublished interviews, noting the location where the interview took place can add valuable context. This might be a city, an institution, or even a virtual space.

Access Information (for published or archived interviews)

If the interview has been published or is archived, providing information on where it can be accessed (e.g., a journal name, a website URL, an archive name) is vital for the reader's ability to verify your source.

Citing Unpublished Interviews in Parenthetical Citations

Unpublished interviews are often considered primary sources. Citing them

requires careful attention to detail to ensure proper attribution.

In the Author-Date System

When using the author-date system for an unpublished interview, your parenthetical citation will typically include the interviewee's last name and the date of the interview. For instance, if you interviewed Jane Doe on October 26, 2023, and are quoting her, the citation might look like this:
(Doe 2023).

If you need to be more specific, especially if you have multiple interviews with the same person in the same year, you can add a letter after the date (e.g., 2023a, 2023b) or include a brief identifier if the interview is part of a larger collection you are referencing.

In the Notes-Bibliography System

In the notes-bibliography system, parenthetical citations for unpublished interviews are less common. Instead, you would typically use a footnote or endnote. However, if you choose to use a parenthetical citation for clarity or as a stylistic choice, it would likely mirror the author-date system. For example:

(Doe 2023).

The fuller details, including the method of interview and location, would then be found in the corresponding footnote or endnote, and subsequently in the bibliography.

Citing Published Interviews in Parenthetical Citations

Interviews that have been published in books, journals, or online present a slightly different scenario for parenthetical citations, as they are treated more like other published works.

In the Author-Date System

If an interview is published, your parenthetical citation will typically include the interviewee's last name and the publication year, similar to citing a chapter in a book. For example, if an interview with John Smith was published in 2022:

(Smith 2022).

If the interview is part of a larger work (e.g., a collection of interviews), you might also need to include page numbers or a specific identifier for that piece within the larger publication, as dictated by your bibliography entry.

In the Notes-Bibliography System

For published interviews in the notes-bibliography system, the primary method of citation is the footnote or endnote. If a parenthetical citation is used, it would generally refer to the interviewee and year, assuming a bibliography entry provides the full publication details.

If the interview is a standalone published piece or a prominent feature in a publication, you might find it easier to cite it as you would any other article or book. The key is consistency with your bibliography entries.

Handling Indirect or Transcribed Interviews

Sometimes, you might not have directly interviewed someone but are using a transcript or a published version of an interview conducted by someone else. This requires a different approach to citation.

Using Transcripts

If you are using a transcript of an interview that you did not conduct yourself, your citation should reflect that you are referencing the transcript. In the author-date system, this might involve mentioning the transcriber or the archive where the transcript is held, along with the date of the original interview or the transcription.

Referencing Published Transcripts

When referring to a published transcript of an interview, treat it as you would any other published source. The parenthetical citation should align with the bibliography entry, which would detail the publication information, including the interviewer (if applicable), the interviewee, the title of the transcript or the work it appears in, and the publication details.

It's important to clearly indicate that you are referencing a transcript. For instance, if you are using a transcript of an interview with Maria Garcia that was transcribed and made available in 2021:

(Garcia, interview transcript, 2021).

Or, if the transcript is part of a larger published work:

(Garcia, in Smith 2021).

The specific format will depend on how the transcript is presented and cataloged. Always consult the Chicago Manual of Style for the most precise guidance on unique archival or transcribed materials.

Frequently Asked Questions About Chicago Style Parenthetical Citation for Interview

Q: What is the primary purpose of a parenthetical citation for an interview in Chicago style?

A: The primary purpose of a parenthetical citation for an interview in Chicago style is to provide an immediate, concise reference to the source of information within the text. This allows readers to quickly identify who provided the information and where it can be found in a more detailed bibliography or notes section, thus upholding academic integrity and facilitating source verification.

Q: How does citing an interview differ from citing a published book in Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: Citing an interview differs from citing a published book primarily in how the "author" is identified and the context of the source. For interviews, the "author" is the interviewee, and the citation often emphasizes the date of the interview rather than a publication date. Published books have a clear author and publication details, while interviews, especially unpublished ones, require specifying the interviewee and the interview date as the core identifiers in the parenthetical citation.

Q: Do I need to include page numbers in a parenthetical citation for an interview?

A: Page numbers are generally not included in parenthetical citations for unpublished interviews unless you are referring to a specific page within a transcript that you have accessed. For published interviews, page numbers are typically included if the interview appears as part of a larger work (like a book chapter) and the citation system requires it for specific locational reference, following the pattern for other sourced materials within that work.

Q: How do I cite an interview I conducted myself in Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: When citing an interview you conducted yourself, your parenthetical citation will typically include the interviewee's last name followed by the date of the interview (in the author-date system). For example: (Smith 2023). In the notes-bibliography system, you would most commonly use a footnote or endnote, but a parenthetical reference might still use the interviewee's name and date for clarity.

Q: What information should be included in the bibliography for an interview cited parenthetically?

A: For an interview cited parenthetically, the corresponding bibliography entry should include the interviewee's full name, the date and method of the interview (e.g., "interview by telephone, October 26, 2023"), the location of the interview (if unpublished), and any access information (e.g., transcript availability, publication details if published).

Q: How do I cite an interview that was conducted via email in Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: An email interview is treated similarly to other interviews. In the author-date system, your parenthetical citation would likely include the interviewee's last name and the date of the email exchange. For example: (Jones 2023). The bibliography entry would then specify that the interview was conducted via email.

Q: What if the interview is published in a collection of works by different authors?

A: If an interview is published within a collection (like a book of interviews or a journalistic compilation), your parenthetical citation will typically follow the pattern for citing a chapter or an article within a larger work, crediting the interviewee as the primary source. The author-date system might look like (Interviewee's Last Name Year), and the bibliography entry would detail the collection and the interviewee's specific contribution.

Q: Is there a difference between citing a personal interview and a published interview in Chicago style

parenthetical citation?

A: Yes, there is a difference. A personal (unpublished) interview citation emphasizes the direct interaction and its date, often without publication details beyond accessibility. A published interview citation treats the interview more like a published article or chapter, including publication information such as the journal or book title, publisher, and page numbers, alongside the interviewee's name and publication year.

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