

chicago style parenthetical citation for page number

chicago style parenthetical citation for page number is a critical element in academic writing, ensuring proper attribution and avoiding plagiarism. Understanding how to accurately cite sources within the text, particularly when referencing specific pages, is fundamental to scholarly integrity. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of the Chicago Manual of Style's author-page citation system, a common choice for history, literature, and other humanities disciplines. We will explore the fundamental principles, discuss variations for different source types, and provide clear examples to demystify the process. Mastering the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number will enhance your research papers, essays, and dissertations, making them more credible and professional.

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Understanding the Chicago Style Parenthetical System

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary systems for citation: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. This article focuses on the author-page method, which is a variation of the notes-bibliography system. In this approach, brief parenthetical citations appear directly within the text, followed by a more comprehensive "Works Cited" list at the end of the document. The parenthetical note provides enough information for the reader to locate the full bibliographic entry without disrupting the flow of the text.

The fundamental principle behind the author-page system is to attribute ideas, facts, and direct quotations to their original sources concisely. This method is particularly favored in disciplines where extensive quoting and close textual analysis are common. By embedding the citation directly after the borrowed material, the writer clearly indicates the origin of the information, allowing readers to easily verify the source or explore it further through the Works Cited list. This system aims for clarity, accuracy, and a seamless reading experience.

When to Use Parenthetical Citations

Parenthetical citations in Chicago style are essential whenever you incorporate information from an external source into your own writing. This includes direct quotations, paraphrased ideas, summaries of arguments, and even factual data that is not common knowledge. The goal is to acknowledge the intellectual property of others and to provide a trail of evidence for your claims. Failure to cite can lead to accusations of plagiarism, which carries serious academic consequences.

The decision to use a parenthetical citation is triggered by the introduction of borrowed material. For example, if you are discussing a historical event and use information from a scholarly article, a parenthetical citation should follow that information. Similarly, if you directly quote a line from a novel, the citation is mandatory immediately after the quoted text. Even when paraphrasing, which involves rephrasing an idea in your own words, the original source must be credited to avoid presenting someone else's thoughts as your own.

Direct Quotations

When using the exact words from a source, you must enclose them in quotation marks and follow them with a parenthetical citation. The citation will typically include the author's last name and the page number from which the quotation was taken. This allows the reader to pinpoint the precise location of the original text. Ensure that the quotation is integrated smoothly into your sentence, and that the citation does not interrupt the grammatical flow.

Paraphrased Ideas and Summaries

Even when you are not quoting verbatim, it is crucial to cite paraphrased ideas and summaries. This acknowledges the original author's contribution to your understanding of the topic. While some stylistic variations exist, the general rule is to include the author's name and the page number where the original idea can be found. This demonstrates a thorough engagement with the source material and maintains academic honesty.

The Basic Author-Page Format

The most common form of the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number involves the author's last name and the page number(s) where the information can be found, enclosed in parentheses. There is no comma between the author's name and the page number. The citation typically appears at the end of the sentence or clause where the borrowed material concludes, before the period.

For instance, if you are citing a work by author Jane Smith on page 45, and you are quoting or

paraphrasing from that page, the citation would look like this: (Smith 45). If the author's name is already mentioned in the text of your sentence, you may omit it from the parenthetical citation, including only the page number. For example, "According to Smith, the historical context is crucial (45)." This saves redundancy and keeps the citation concise.

In-Text Author Mention

When the author's name is already part of your sentence's narrative, Chicago style allows for a streamlined parenthetical citation. This often occurs when you are introducing a quote or paraphrased idea by stating the author's name directly. For example, if you write, "As scholars have noted, the societal impact was profound," and you are citing John Doe's work from page 112, you would follow your statement with the page number in parentheses: "As scholars have noted, the societal impact was profound (112)." This convention prevents repetitive phrasing and maintains a natural reading rhythm.

No Comma Between Author and Page

A key characteristic of the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number is the absence of a comma between the author's last name and the page number. Unlike some other citation styles, such as APA, Chicago does not use a comma to separate these elements. Therefore, if you are citing a work by Mark Johnson from page 88, the correct format is (Johnson 88), not (Johnson, 88).

Variations for Different Source Types

While the author-page format is standard, there are slight adjustments based on the nature of the source material and how it is presented. These variations ensure that the parenthetical citation provides sufficient clarity for the reader to locate the source in the Works Cited list.

Books

For books, the parenthetical citation typically includes the author's last name and the specific page number. If the author has multiple works cited in your bibliography, and you need to distinguish between them within the text, you might include a shortened version of the book's title. For example, if citing from "The History of Art" by Emily Carter, and you have another book by Carter in your bibliography, a citation might appear as (Carter, History of Art 150).

Journal Articles

Citing journal articles follows a similar pattern. The author's last name and the page number are used. If the

journal is paginated continuously throughout a volume, the page number is sufficient. However, if each issue of a journal is paginated separately, you might need to include the issue number as well. For example: (Davis 210) or, if necessary, (Miller, Issue 3, 78).

Websites and Other Online Sources

Citing online sources can be more complex, especially when page numbers are not consistently available. If a webpage has clear page numbers (e.g., a PDF version of an article), you would use the author's name and that page number. If no page number is present, Chicago style suggests using paragraph numbers or section headings if they are clearly marked. For instance, you might cite (Green, par. 5) or (White, "Introduction"). If none of these are available, you may omit the page number, relying on the author's name to distinguish the source in the Works Cited list.

Citing Multiple Pages

When you refer to information that spans multiple consecutive pages, or when you draw information from several distinct pages within a single work, Chicago style provides specific formats for parenthetical citations. These formats help readers understand the extent of the borrowed material.

Consecutive Pages

If the information you are citing comes from a block of text that covers several consecutive pages, you should indicate the range of pages. This is done by using a hyphen between the first and last page numbers. For example, if your information is found on pages 78 through 81 of a source by Robert Lee, your citation would be (Lee 78-81).

Non-Consecutive Pages

When you refer to information from different, non-consecutive pages within the same work, you should list each page number separately, separated by commas. For instance, if you are referencing information from pages 55, 62, and 70 of a book by Sarah Brown, the parenthetical citation would appear as (Brown 55, 62, 70).

Citing No Page Number

In instances where a source does not have traditional page numbers, such as some web pages, articles from online databases that are not in PDF format, or oral interviews, Chicago style offers alternatives to ensure proper attribution. The primary goal is still to direct the reader to the correct source in your Works Cited

list.

- **Author Name Only:** If the author is clearly identified and the source is unique in your bibliography, you may sometimes omit the page number entirely if there is no other locator available. For example: (Roberts).
- **Paragraph Numbers:** For online articles or web content that uses paragraph numbering, you can cite the paragraph number. This is often indicated with "par." or "para." For example: (Davis, par. 3).
- **Section Headings:** If the source is organized into clearly defined sections or chapters without page numbers, you can cite the section or chapter title. For example: (Miller, "Methodology") or (Garcia, Chapter 2).
- **No Locator Available:** In rare cases where no author, page, paragraph, or section information is available, and the source is otherwise identifiable, you might rely solely on the title of the work in your Works Cited list. However, this is generally discouraged and should be used only as a last resort.

Works Cited Page Integration

The parenthetical citations in your text are directly linked to the full bibliographic entries in your Works Cited list. This list, placed at the end of your paper, provides all the necessary details for readers to locate and consult your sources. Each parenthetical citation should correspond to a unique entry in the Works Cited list, allowing for seamless navigation between your text and your sources.

When compiling your Works Cited list, ensure that the author's name in the full entry matches the author's name in your parenthetical citation. Similarly, if you used a shortened title in your parenthetical citation to distinguish between works by the same author, that shortened title should appear in the corresponding full entry. This consistency is crucial for academic integrity and reader convenience.

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices

Navigating citation styles can be challenging, and the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number is no exception. Awareness of common errors and adherence to best practices will significantly improve the accuracy and professionalism of your academic writing.

- **Incorrect Punctuation:** A frequent mistake is the inclusion of a comma between the author's name and the page number. Remember, Chicago style does not use this comma.

- **Omitting Necessary Information:** If you cite multiple works by the same author, failing to include a shortened title when necessary can lead to confusion.
- **Inconsistent Formatting:** Ensure that the formatting of your parenthetical citations is consistent throughout the entire document.
- **Plagiarism:** The most serious pitfall is failing to cite at all, which constitutes plagiarism. Always err on the side of caution and cite when in doubt.
- **Over-Citing:** While thoroughness is important, avoid excessively detailed parenthetical citations that disrupt the reading flow. Use them judiciously for borrowed material.

To avoid these pitfalls, it is highly recommended to consult the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* or a reliable style guide that adheres to its principles. Proofreading your citations carefully before submission is also an essential step. Consider using citation management software, but always double-check its output for adherence to Chicago style guidelines.

Parenthetical Citations for Specific Disciplines

While the core principles of the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number remain consistent, certain disciplines might have subtle preferences or established conventions that influence their application. Understanding these nuances can further refine your citation practices.

In history, for instance, where primary source analysis is paramount, parenthetical citations often provide precise page numbers for archival documents or historical texts. Literary studies may emphasize the citation of specific editions of works, especially for poetry and drama, ensuring that line numbers or act/scene references are included where appropriate. The clarity and accuracy of the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number are valued across these fields, ensuring that readers can trace the scholarly conversation and verify the evidence presented.

FAQ

Q: What is the fundamental difference between Chicago style parenthetical citations and footnote citations?

A: The fundamental difference lies in their placement and format within the document. Parenthetical citations are brief notes placed directly within the text, usually at the end of a sentence or clause, containing the author's last name and page number. Footnotes, on the other hand, are numbered references that appear at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or at the end of the document (endnotes), providing more

extensive bibliographic information and often including commentary. While both systems attribute sources, parenthetical citations aim for conciseness within the text, while footnotes offer more detail.

Q: Is it ever acceptable to omit the page number in a Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: Yes, it is sometimes acceptable to omit the page number, particularly when citing sources that do not have conventional page numbers. This includes many websites, articles from online databases that are not paginated, and certain types of multimedia. In such cases, you would typically use the author's last name, and if available, paragraph numbers, section headings, or the title of the work to guide the reader to the correct source in your Works Cited list.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a source when the author's name is already mentioned in the sentence?

A: When the author's name is already mentioned in the text of your sentence, you can omit it from the parenthetical citation and include only the page number. For example, if you write, "According to John Doe, the study's findings were significant," and you are citing from page 75 of his work, the citation would simply be (75). This avoids redundancy and maintains a smoother flow.

Q: How do I cite a source with two authors in Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: For sources with two authors, you include both authors' last names in the parenthetical citation, separated by "and." For example, if you are citing a work by Smith and Jones from page 120, the citation would be (Smith and Jones 120).

Q: What if I need to cite a work by an organization or corporation as the author in Chicago style?

A: If an organization or corporation is the author, you use the organization's name in place of an individual author's last name. For example, if citing a report from the World Health Organization on page 30, the citation would be (World Health Organization 30). If the organization's name is very long, you might use a shortened version of its name in subsequent citations if it is clearly identifiable in your Works Cited list.

Q: How do I cite a source with no author listed in Chicago style

parenthetical citation?

A: When a source has no author listed, you use the title of the work, or a shortened version of it, in place of the author's name. For example, if citing an article titled "The Future of Urban Planning" from page 45, and there is no author, the citation would be ("Future of Urban Planning" 45). The title should be enclosed in quotation marks if it is a shorter work like an article or chapter, or italicized if it is a longer work like a book or journal.

Q: Does the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number require a comma between the author and the page?

A: No, the Chicago style parenthetical citation for page number does not use a comma between the author's last name and the page number. The format is simply (AuthorLastName PageNumber), for example, (Miller 88). This is a key distinction from some other citation styles.

Q: How should I handle citing a source that is available in both print and online formats in Chicago style?

A: For sources available in both print and online formats, Chicago style generally prioritizes citing the print version if it is the one you consulted, as page numbers are more reliably consistent. However, if you primarily used the online version and it has stable page numbers (like a PDF), you can cite those. If the online version lacks page numbers, follow the guidelines for citing online sources. Always ensure your Works Cited entry reflects the format you used.

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