

citing philosophy texts chicago

citing philosophy texts chicago styles, particularly the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) Notes-Bibliography system, is a crucial skill for any student, scholar, or researcher engaging with philosophical discourse. Mastering this citation method ensures academic integrity, allows readers to trace sources accurately, and upholds the rigor expected in philosophical inquiry. This comprehensive guide will delve deep into the nuances of citing philosophy texts using the Chicago style, covering everything from basic principles to complex scenarios. We will explore the distinct components of footnotes/endnotes and bibliographies, providing clear examples for various types of philosophical sources, including books, journal articles, and online materials. Understanding these conventions is paramount for producing polished and credible academic work.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style for Philosophy

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is widely recognized and adopted across various academic disciplines, with a particular emphasis in the humanities, including philosophy. For philosophical works, the Notes-Bibliography system, which utilizes footnotes or endnotes and a comprehensive bibliography, is the predominant method. This system allows for detailed annotations within the text itself, clarifying the origin of specific ideas, arguments, or quotations, while the bibliography provides a consolidated list of all sources consulted and cited. This dual approach is favored in philosophy because it facilitates close engagement with texts and allows for nuanced attribution of intellectual contributions.

When citing philosophy texts in Chicago style, it is essential to grasp the underlying philosophy of citation itself: giving credit where credit is due and enabling readers to locate the exact information you are referencing. This involves meticulous attention to detail regarding author names, titles, publication dates, page numbers, and other bibliographic data. The Chicago style offers a flexible yet systematic framework designed to accommodate the complex nature of philosophical arguments and their development through various published forms.

The Fundamentals of Notes-Bibliography System

The Notes-Bibliography system in CMOS is built upon two core components: notes (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation is made, while endnotes are collected at the end of the document before the bibliography. Both serve the same purpose: to provide source information for specific references within the main text. The first time a source is cited, a full note is typically required. Subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened using an “ibid.” (if immediately preceding) or a shortened form of the title and author.

The bibliography, on the other hand, is an alphabetical list of all sources referenced in the notes. It offers a complete overview of the research undertaken and serves as a quick reference for readers interested in the works cited. The formatting for notes and bibliographies, while sharing common elements, has distinct structural differences. Understanding these differences is key to accurately presenting your research and adhering to Chicago style guidelines for philosophical works.

Structure of a Full Note

A full note for a book, for instance, typically includes the author's first and last name, the title of the book (italicized), the place of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s) being referenced. For journal articles, it will include the author, article title (in quotation marks), journal title (italicized), volume and issue numbers, year of publication, and page range of the article, followed by the specific page(s) cited.

Structure of a Bibliography Entry

The bibliography entry for the same book would list the author's last name first, followed by their first name, the title of the book (italicized), the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. For journal articles, the author's last name comes first, followed by their first name, the article title (in quotation marks), the journal title (italicized), the volume and issue numbers, the year of publication, and the page range of the article. Notice the inverted order of the author's name and the absence of specific page numbers for the citation itself, as the bibliography lists the entire work.

Citing Philosophical Books

Books are a cornerstone of philosophical study, and citing them accurately in Chicago style is therefore fundamental. This includes citing primary philosophical texts, secondary scholarly analyses, edited

collections, and even translations.

Citing a Primary Source Book (Monograph)

When referencing a standalone philosophical work by a single author, such as Plato's *Republic* or Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, the format is consistent. For a footnote/endnote, you would provide the author's full name, the italicized title, publication details (city: publisher, year), and the specific page number(s). The bibliography entry follows the same information but with the author's last name first and without specific page numbers.

Example Footnote:

1. Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. Norman Kemp Smith (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1965), 295.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated by Norman Kemp Smith. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1965.

Citing a Chapter in an Edited Book

Philosophical arguments are often found within edited collections. When citing a specific chapter or essay within such a volume, you need to provide information for both the chapter and the collection. The note will include the chapter author, the chapter title in quotation marks, followed by "in," the italicized book title, the editor(s) (preceded by "ed." or "eds."), publication details, and the page range of the chapter, along with the specific page(s) cited. The bibliography entry organizes this similarly but prioritizes the collection's details.

Example Footnote:

2. Bernard Williams, "The Makropulos Case: Reflections on the Idea of Immortality," in *Moral Luck: Philosophical Essays*, ed. Thomas Nagel and Bernard Williams (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), 84.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Williams, Bernard. "The Makropulos Case: Reflections on the Idea of Immortality." In *Moral Luck: Philosophical Essays*, edited by Thomas Nagel and Bernard Williams, 84-100. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Citing a Translated Work

Many foundational philosophical texts are read in translation. It is crucial to cite the translator. The note and bibliography entry should include the translator's name, typically introduced with "translated by." The original publication date of the work might also be included for context, often in parentheses after the translated title.

Example Footnote:

3. Plato, *Republic*, trans. G. M. A. Grube, rev. C. D. C. Reeve (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992), 360d.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Plato. *Republic*. Translated by G. M. A. Grube. Revised by C. D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.

Citing Philosophical Journal Articles

Academic journals are vital venues for contemporary philosophical debate and research. Accurate citation of these articles ensures proper attribution of current scholarship.

Citing a Standard Journal Article

For a typical article appearing in a scholarly journal, the footnote/endnote includes the author's full name, the article title in quotation marks, the journal title italicized, the volume and issue number, the year of publication in parentheses, and the page range of the article, followed by the specific page(s) cited. The bibliography entry follows a similar structure, with the author's last name first.

Example Footnote:

4. Martha Nussbaum, "The Therapy of Desire: Therapeutic Philosophical Inquiry and the Discomfort of the Human Condition," *The Hedgehog Review* 3, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 31.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Nussbaum, Martha. "The Therapy of Desire: Therapeutic Philosophical Inquiry and the Discomfort of the Human Condition." *The Hedgehog Review* 3, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 28–51.

Citing an Article with DOIs

With the increasing prevalence of digital scholarly resources, citing articles with Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) is common. A DOI is a persistent identifier that links to an electronic document. When a DOI is available, it is generally preferred over a URL for journal articles.

Example Footnote:

5. David Chalmers, "Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness," *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 2, no. 3 (1995): 203, doi:10.1080/13556219500074442.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Chalmers, David. "Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness." *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 2, no. 3 (1995): 200–219. doi:10.1080/13556219500074442.

Citing Online Philosophical Resources

The digital landscape offers a wealth of philosophical content, from online encyclopedias to archived lectures. Citing these requires careful attention to ensure the source's credibility and accessibility.

Citing an Online Encyclopedia Entry

For online resources like the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, which is a highly reputable source in philosophy, the citation should include the author of the entry (if available), the title of the entry in quotation marks, the name of the encyclopedia (italicized), the URL, and the date of access. If a publication date is available for the entry, it should also be included.

Example Footnote:

6. Edward N. Zalta, "Metaphysics," in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, spring 2023 ed., <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2023/entries/metaphysics/>.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Zalta, Edward N. "Metaphysics." In *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Spring 2023 ed. <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2023/entries/metaphysics/>.

Citing a Web Page or Blog Post

When citing less formal online philosophical content, such as blog posts or individual web pages, it is crucial to assess the authoritativeness of the source. The citation should include the author (if known), the title of the page or post in quotation marks, the name of the website (italicized), the URL, and the date of access.

Example Footnote:

7. "The Ethics of AI: A Primer," *Philosophy Now*, accessed October 26, 2023, https://philosophynow.org/issues/150/The_Ethics_of_AI_A_Primer.

Example Bibliography Entry:

"The Ethics of AI: A Primer." *Philosophy Now*. Accessed October 26, 2023. https://philosophynow.org/issues/150/The_Ethics_of_AI_A_Primer.

Special Considerations in Citing Philosophy Texts

The nature of philosophical argument often necessitates specific citation practices. This can include referencing specific editions, citing multiple works by the same author, and handling direct quotations precisely.

Referring to Specific Editions

For influential philosophical works, different editions can vary significantly in their pagination, translation, or inclusion of supplementary material. It is standard practice in philosophy to cite the specific edition you are using, especially if it is a critical or scholarly edition. This ensures readers can locate the exact passages you are referencing, even if they are using a different edition.

Citing Multiple Works by the Same Author

When you cite multiple works by the same author in your bibliography, you need a consistent system. For the second and subsequent entries by the same author, you can replace the author's name with a solid line (usually six characters or an em dash) in the bibliography. However, the author's name must always be written out in full in the notes.

Handling Direct Quotations and Paraphrases

Direct quotations are essential in philosophy to preserve the precise wording of an argument or definition. Ensure that your quotation is accurate and attributed with the correct page number(s). Paraphrasing or summarizing another philosopher's ideas also requires a citation, even though you are not using their exact words. This is crucial for intellectual honesty.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Navigating citation styles can be complex, and certain errors are more common than others when citing philosophy texts. Being aware of these can help you maintain accuracy and professionalism in your academic work.

- Inconsistent formatting between notes and bibliography.
- Omitting crucial bibliographic information such as publication year or publisher.
- Using “ibid.” incorrectly, or too frequently, leading to confusion.
- Failing to cite paraphrased ideas, not just direct quotations.
- Not specifying the edition when it is particularly important for philosophical context.
- Incorrectly italicizing titles of books and articles, or putting article titles in quotation marks when they should be italicized, and vice-versa.

Adhering strictly to the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines for citing philosophy texts demonstrates a commitment to scholarly rigor and contributes to the clarity and credibility of your philosophical research. By paying close attention to the details of notes and bibliography entries, and by understanding the unique needs of philosophical citation, you can effectively communicate your engagement with the rich tradition of philosophical thought.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary citation system used for philosophy texts in Chicago style?

A: The primary citation system for philosophy texts in the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is the Notes-Bibliography system. This system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work.

Q: How do I cite a specific edition of a philosophy book if multiple editions exist?

A: When citing a specific edition of a philosophy book, you should include the edition number or description (e.g., "2nd ed.," "rev. ed.") in your note and bibliography entry. For example, in a footnote: Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, 2nd ed., trans. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 15. In the bibliography: Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*. 2nd ed. Translated by Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a philosophical text translated into English?

A: When citing a translated philosophical text, you must include the translator's name. In the note, the translator is typically introduced with "trans." or "translated by." In the bibliography, the translator's name appears after the title, often preceded by "Translated by." For instance, a footnote might read: Plato, *Republic*, trans. G. M. A. Grube (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992), 123. The bibliography entry would be: Plato. *Republic*. Translated by G. M. A. Grube. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.

Q: How should I cite a chapter from an edited volume of philosophical essays in Chicago style?

A: To cite a chapter from an edited volume, your footnote/endnote should include the chapter author, the chapter title in quotation marks, followed by "in," the italicized title of the edited volume, the editor(s) (preceded by "ed." or "eds."), publication information, and the page range of the chapter, along with the specific page(s) cited. The bibliography entry follows a similar structure, with the chapter author's last name first. For example, a footnote: Alasdair MacIntyre, "What Is a Moral Community?" in *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 12, no. 3, ed. David M. Heyd (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983), 130. A bibliography entry: MacIntyre, Alasdair. "What Is a Moral Community?" In *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 12, no. 3, edited by David M. Heyd, 130-147. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983.

Q: What is the difference between a footnote and an endnote in Chicago style for citing philosophy?

A: In the Chicago Manual of Style's Notes-Bibliography system, footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation is made, while endnotes are compiled at the end of the document, typically before the bibliography. Both serve the same function of providing source information for specific points in the text. The choice between footnotes and endnotes is often dictated by publisher or instructor preference.

Q: How do I cite the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy using Chicago style?

A: To cite an entry from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP), you should include the author of the entry (if known), the title of the entry in quotation marks, the name of the encyclopedia (italicized), the publication details of the specific edition (like the "spring 2023 ed."), the URL, and the date you accessed the entry. For instance: John Martin Fischer, "Free Will," in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, winter 2022 ed., accessed October 26, 2023, <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2022/entries/freewill/>. The bibliography entry would be similar but without the access date.

Q: Can I use "ibid." when citing philosophy texts in Chicago style?

A: Yes, you can use "ibid." (short for the Latin *ibidem*, meaning "in the same place") when citing philosophy texts in Chicago style. However, "ibid." should only be used when the current note refers to the immediately preceding note. If the same source is cited but on a different page, you would use a shortened note. Overuse of "ibid." can sometimes lead to confusion, so it's best to use it judiciously.

Q: When should I cite a philosophical work that I have only paraphrased, not quoted directly?

A: You must cite a philosophical work even when you have paraphrased or summarized an idea, argument, or piece of information from it. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. The citation in the note should include the author and page number where the idea can be found in the source, just as it would for a direct quotation.

Citing Philosophy Texts Chicago

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