

chicago indirect quotation citation

chicago indirect quotation citation plays a crucial role in academic and professional writing, ensuring proper attribution and avoiding plagiarism. Understanding how to correctly cite indirect quotations, also known as paraphrases or summaries, within the Chicago Manual of Style is essential for maintaining scholarly integrity. This comprehensive guide will delve into the nuances of the Chicago indirect quotation citation, covering its fundamental principles, variations in citation styles, and practical examples. We will explore the importance of accurately representing the original source's meaning and how to integrate these citations seamlessly into your work. Furthermore, we will address common pitfalls and provide best practices for effective referencing.

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What is an Indirect Quotation?

An indirect quotation, often referred to as a paraphrase or summary, occurs when you restate the ideas, concepts, or information from a source in your own words. Unlike a direct quotation, which uses the exact wording of the original text, an indirect quotation requires the writer to synthesize and rephrase the information. This process involves understanding the source material thoroughly and then articulating it in a manner that reflects your comprehension while maintaining fidelity to the original meaning. It is a fundamental skill for academic writers to demonstrate their engagement with research and to integrate external knowledge into their own arguments.

The distinction between paraphrasing and summarizing is important, though both require citation. A paraphrase generally covers a shorter passage and maintains the original meaning very closely, often sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph. A summary, on the other hand, condenses a larger amount of information into a more concise overview, capturing the main points or argument of the source. Regardless of the extent of rephrasing, the intellectual property of the original author must be acknowledged.

The Purpose of Indirect Quotation Citation

The primary purpose of citing indirect quotations is to give credit to the original author for their ideas and research. This act of attribution is a cornerstone of academic honesty and prevents plagiarism. By

acknowledging your sources, you demonstrate respect for intellectual property and allow your readers to locate the original material for further exploration or verification. This builds credibility for your own work, showing that it is built upon a foundation of sound research and informed by existing scholarship.

Furthermore, proper citation helps to contextualize your arguments. It shows your audience where your ideas originate and how they connect to the broader conversation within your field of study. When you paraphrase or summarize, you are engaging with existing knowledge, and the citation marks that engagement. It clarifies which points are your own original thoughts and which are derived from others, ensuring transparency in your research process and enabling readers to follow your intellectual journey.

Chicago Manual of Style: Author-Date System vs. Notes and Bibliography System

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two distinct citation systems: the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. Each system serves a similar purpose of attribution but employs different methods for in-text citations and the creation of a reference list. Understanding which system is appropriate for your work is the first step in mastering Chicago indirect quotation citation. The choice between these systems often depends on the discipline, the specific publication venue, or instructor preference.

The Notes and Bibliography system, commonly used in the humanities (such as literature, history, and the arts), uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations. A bibliography listing all consulted sources is included at the end of the work. The Author-Date system, more prevalent in the social sciences and sciences, uses brief parenthetical citations in the text (author, year, and page number) and a reference list at the end that includes full bibliographic information for all cited sources.

Citing Indirect Quotations in the Notes and Bibliography System

In the Notes and Bibliography system, indirect quotations are cited using footnotes or endnotes. When you paraphrase or summarize information from a source, you will insert a superscript Arabic numeral at the end of the sentence or clause that contains the paraphrased material. This numeral corresponds to a note at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the document (endnote). The first time a source is cited in a note, the entry includes full bibliographic details. Subsequent citations of the same source can be abbreviated.

The content of the note should clearly identify the source of the information. For a paraphrase, the note typically includes the author's last name, a shortened title of the work, and the page number(s) from which the information was drawn. The inclusion of the page number is crucial, even for paraphrases, as it helps readers pinpoint the original discussion within the source. This level of detail is vital for scholarly rigor and aids in the verification process for anyone reviewing your work.

- First Note Citation: Author Last Name, *Book Title* (City: Publisher, Year), Page Number.
- Subsequent Note Citation: Author Last Name, *Shortened Book Title*, Page Number.
- First Note Citation (Article): Author Last Name, "Article Title," *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number.
- Subsequent Note Citation (Article): Author Last Name, "Shortened Article Title," Page Number.

Citing Indirect Quotations in the Author-Date System

The Author-Date system requires a concise parenthetical citation directly within the text. When you paraphrase or summarize, the in-text citation includes the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number(s) where the information can be found. This parenthetical citation is typically placed at the end of the sentence or clause containing the paraphrased material, before the final punctuation mark. For example, (Smith 2020, 45).

It is important to note that even for paraphrases, the page number is considered best practice and is often required by instructors and publishers. While a summary might encompass ideas from an entire work, citing specific page numbers for the core concepts you are integrating allows readers to connect your interpretation to the original source more effectively. The full bibliographic information for all cited sources will appear in a "References" list at the end of your document, formatted according to Chicago style guidelines.

The structure of the in-text citation in the Author-Date system is straightforward:

- Paraphrase: (Author Last Name Year, Page Number)
- Example: (Johnson 2019, 112)

Key Elements of a Chicago Indirect Quotation Citation

Regardless of whether you are using the Notes and Bibliography system or the Author-Date system, certain key elements are consistent for Chicago indirect quotation citation. The goal is always to provide sufficient information for the reader to locate and verify the original source. This typically includes the author's name, the title of the work, and specific location information within the source.

For paraphrases and summaries, the inclusion of page numbers is paramount. Even though you are using your own words, the ideas originated from a specific place within the source material. Providing these page numbers demonstrates a diligent engagement with the source and allows for precise verification. For journal articles, the volume and issue numbers are also critical, while for books, the

publisher and year of publication are essential components for a complete bibliographic entry.

The core components for identification are:

- Author's Name
- Year of Publication
- Title of the Work
- Specific Page Number(s)

When to Cite an Indirect Quotation

You must cite an indirect quotation (paraphrase or summary) whenever you present information, ideas, arguments, theories, statistics, or any data that are not your own original thoughts or common knowledge. This includes restating someone else's opinion, explaining their research findings, or synthesizing their conclusions. The principle is simple: if the information did not originate with you, it requires a citation.

Even if you have significantly rephrased the original text, the underlying idea or fact still belongs to the original author. Failing to cite these instances can be just as problematic as failing to cite a direct quotation. Common knowledge is generally understood to be information that most educated individuals in a particular field would be aware of without needing to look it up. However, it is always safer to err on the side of caution and cite any information that might be debatable or specific to a particular study or author.

Common Mistakes in Chicago Indirect Quotation Citation

Several common mistakes can occur when citing indirect quotations in Chicago style. One of the most frequent errors is omitting the page number, even when paraphrasing. While the text is in your own words, the specific idea or data point often comes from a particular location in the source, and the page number is essential for proper attribution and verification.

Another mistake is misrepresenting the original author's meaning. Paraphrasing requires careful comprehension. If your paraphrase distorts the original intent or nuance, it can lead to misinterpretation by your readers and is considered a serious academic offense. Ensuring your paraphrase accurately reflects the source's meaning is as important as the citation itself.

Other frequent errors include:

- Incorrectly formatting in-text citations or notes.
- Failing to include all necessary bibliographic information in the bibliography or reference list.
- Treating information as common knowledge when it is not.
- Inconsistent application of the chosen Chicago style system (Notes and Bibliography or Author-Date).
- Plagiarism through inadequate paraphrasing or summarization, even with an attempt at citation.

Best Practices for Citing Paraphrased and Summarized Material

To effectively cite paraphrased and summarized material in Chicago style, it is crucial to develop a systematic approach. Begin by thoroughly understanding the source material before attempting to rephrase it. Take notes, highlighting key arguments and supporting details. When writing your paraphrase or summary, actively try to explain the material in your own conceptual framework.

Always immediately follow the paraphrased or summarized material with an in-text citation, whether it's a footnote/endnote number or an author-date parenthetical. Do not wait until the end of a paragraph or section to add citations; this increases the risk of accidentally omitting one. Regularly review your work to ensure that every piece of information derived from external sources is properly attributed. This diligence will not only prevent plagiarism but also strengthen the overall quality and credibility of your writing.

Adhering to these practices will significantly improve the accuracy and integrity of your Chicago indirect quotation citation:

- Read and understand the original source thoroughly.
- Write the paraphrase or summary in your own words and sentence structure.
- Cite immediately after the paraphrased or summarized material.
- Include specific page numbers for all paraphrases.
- Ensure the full citation details are present in your bibliography or reference list.
- Verify that your paraphrase accurately reflects the original meaning.

Ensuring Accuracy and Avoiding Plagiarism

Accuracy in Chicago indirect quotation citation is not merely a matter of following rules; it is fundamental to academic integrity and the ethical presentation of research. Plagiarism occurs not only when you copy text verbatim without attribution but also when you present someone else's ideas, theories, or data in your own words without proper acknowledgment. Therefore, every instance of paraphrasing or summarizing requires careful consideration and meticulous citation.

To ensure accuracy and avoid plagiarism, maintain a consistent system for tracking your sources from the moment you begin your research. Use citation management tools if necessary. Double-check that your in-text citations correspond correctly to your bibliography or reference list entries. Treat your source material with respect, understanding that the effort and intellect of other scholars deserve clear and unambiguous acknowledgment. By prioritizing accuracy in your Chicago indirect quotation citation practices, you build a reputation for integrity and contribute meaningfully to the scholarly conversation.

FAQ

Q: What is the fundamental difference between a direct quote and an indirect quote in Chicago style?

A: The fundamental difference lies in the wording. A direct quote uses the exact language from the source, enclosed in quotation marks. An indirect quote, or paraphrase, restates the original author's ideas in your own words without using quotation marks. Both require proper citation according to the Chicago Manual of Style.

Q: Do I always need to include a page number for an indirect quotation in Chicago style?

A: Yes, it is strongly recommended and often required by Chicago style to include a page number even for indirect quotations. While you are using your own words, the idea or information originates from a specific point in the source, and the page number helps readers locate that original discussion for verification or further study.

Q: How do I cite an indirect quotation from a source that has multiple authors in Chicago style?

A: The citation format for multiple authors in Chicago style varies slightly between the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system, but the principle remains the same: list the authors as they appear on the source. For example, in a note, you might list "Smith, Jones, and Lee," and in an Author-Date citation, you would list "(Smith, Jones, and Lee Year, p. X)." Consult the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style for specific details on citing three or more authors.

Q: Can I just change a few words to make a direct quote an indirect quote?

A: No, simply changing a few words from a direct quote does not constitute a proper paraphrase. A true indirect quotation requires you to understand the original meaning and then express it entirely in your own words and sentence structure. Presenting a slightly altered direct quote without proper quotation marks is still considered plagiarism.

Q: What is the purpose of the Bibliography or Reference List when citing indirect quotations?

A: The Bibliography (for Notes and Bibliography system) or Reference List (for Author-Date system) provides a comprehensive list of all sources you have cited in your work. It allows your readers to find the full bibliographic details of each source, including author, title, publisher, and publication date, enabling them to locate and consult the original material themselves.

Q: How do I cite an indirect quotation when the original source is online and has no page numbers?

A: When citing an indirect quotation from an online source that lacks page numbers, the Chicago Manual of Style provides alternatives. You can cite paragraph numbers if they are clearly indicated, or you may cite other locational indicators like chapter or section headings. If none are available, and you have used an author-date system, you might simply cite the author and year (e.g., Doe 2023). However, always consult the specific guidelines of your institution or publisher, as practices can vary for unpaginated online sources.

Q: Is it possible to paraphrase too much and still commit plagiarism?

A: Yes, it is possible. Plagiarism is not solely about word-for-word copying. It also includes presenting someone else's unique ideas, arguments, or research structure as your own, even if you have rephrased them extensively. Proper citation acknowledges the origin of the ideas, regardless of how much you have altered the wording.

Q: What are the risks of not citing indirect quotations correctly?

A: The primary risks of not citing indirect quotations correctly are plagiarism and academic dishonesty. This can lead to severe consequences, including failing grades, suspension, or expulsion from academic institutions. Professionally, it can damage your reputation and credibility. Beyond academic penalties, it undermines the integrity of scholarship.

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