

chicago manual indirect quote examples

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides comprehensive guidelines for academic and professional writing, and understanding how to properly integrate indirect quotes is a crucial aspect of adhering to its standards. This article delves into the intricacies of crafting and citing indirect quotations according to the Chicago Manual. We will explore what constitutes an indirect quote, differentiate it from direct quotations, and provide extensive examples that illustrate correct application in various contexts. Furthermore, we will discuss the nuances of paraphrasing, summarizing, and the importance of attribution, all while focusing on clear, concise, and accurate guidance to help writers master this essential citation technique within the Chicago style framework.

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Understanding Indirect Quotes in Chicago Style

Indirect quotations, often referred to as paraphrases or summaries, involve restating the ideas or arguments of another source in your own words. Unlike direct quotes, which reproduce the exact wording of the original text, indirect quotes allow for greater integration into your prose, demonstrating your comprehension and synthesis of the source material. The Chicago Manual of Style, a widely respected authority on manuscript preparation and citation, offers clear directives on how to effectively employ and attribute these paraphrased ideas.

The primary purpose of an indirect quote is to convey the essence of a source's thought or information without disrupting the flow of your own writing with the verbatim text. This requires careful attention to accurately representing the original meaning while ensuring your phrasing is distinct. The Chicago Manual emphasizes that even when paraphrasing, the original author's intellectual property must be acknowledged, maintaining academic integrity and providing readers with the ability to locate the source if they wish to explore it further.

Understanding the distinction between indirect and direct quotations is foundational. While direct quotes offer the precision of the original language, indirect quotes provide flexibility and conciseness. Both methods,

however, necessitate proper citation to avoid plagiarism and to give credit where it is due. The Chicago style offers two primary citation systems, and the approach to citing indirect quotes varies slightly between them, although the fundamental principle of attribution remains constant.

Distinguishing Indirect Quotes from Direct Quotes

The fundamental difference between an indirect quote and a direct quote lies in their presentation. A direct quote meticulously preserves the original author's exact wording, typically enclosed in quotation marks. For instance, if Jane Doe wrote, "The economic downturn significantly impacted small businesses," a direct quote would be presented precisely that way. This method is useful when the original wording is particularly impactful, memorable, or essential for analysis.

An indirect quote, conversely, rephrases the same idea using the writer's own vocabulary and sentence structure. The essence of Doe's statement might be rendered indirectly as, "According to Doe, small businesses experienced considerable hardship due to the economic decline." Here, the meaning is the same, but the words and sentence construction are different. This approach allows for smoother integration into the surrounding text and can be more concise, especially when dealing with lengthy passages that can be summarized effectively.

The Chicago Manual of Style underscores the importance of this distinction. When a writer chooses to paraphrase or summarize, they are engaging in a form of intellectual engagement with the source, transforming its ideas into their own expression. However, this transformation does not negate the original authorship. Therefore, regardless of whether the words are copied verbatim or rephrased, the source of the idea must always be credited, adhering to the principles of scholarly and ethical writing.

Crafting Effective Indirect Quotes

Creating effective indirect quotes involves more than just swapping out a few words. It requires a deep understanding of the source material to accurately convey its meaning in your own voice. The process begins with reading the original passage carefully, perhaps multiple times, until you fully grasp its core message, nuances, and any underlying assumptions. You should then set the original text aside and attempt to explain the idea in your own words, as if you were explaining it to someone who has not read the source.

When paraphrasing, focus on capturing the main points and arguments without

introducing your own interpretations unless they are clearly marked as such. Avoid simply rearranging the original sentences or substituting synonyms. True paraphrasing involves a fundamental restructuring of the ideas and sentences. For example, if a source states, "The implementation of new technological solutions facilitated a significant increase in operational efficiency," an effective indirect quote might be: "The introduction of advanced technologies led to a marked improvement in how operations were conducted, as noted by the author."

Summarizing is a related but distinct practice. While paraphrasing typically focuses on a specific sentence or short passage, summarizing condenses a larger section of text, an entire article, or even a book into a brief overview of its main arguments. For instance, a summary of a lengthy research paper might state: "Smith's study on renewable energy concluded that solar power presents the most viable long-term solution due to its declining costs and increasing efficiency, despite initial infrastructure challenges." This condenses the core findings without going into the detailed methodology or specific data points.

Citing Indirect Quotes with Chicago Style Footnotes/Endnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two principal citation systems: notes and bibliography (footnotes or endnotes) and author-date. When using the notes and bibliography system, indirect quotes are cited using footnotes or endnotes, followed by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. The basic principle is that every time you paraphrase, summarize, or quote directly from a source, you must provide a corresponding note number in your text.

The footnote or endnote itself will contain the necessary bibliographic information. For an indirect quote, the format of the note is generally similar to that of a direct quote, though often less detailed. It must at least include the author's last name and the page number where the idea can be found. A full bibliographic entry, including title and publication details, is typically provided in the bibliography. However, for subsequent references to the same source within the notes, a shortened form is used.

For example, if you are referencing a book by John Smith titled "The History of Printing," and you paraphrase an idea from page 45, your first note might look something like this:

- 1. John Smith, *The History of Printing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.

If you then refer to another idea from the same source on page 60, the

subsequent note would be shortened:

- 2. Smith, History of Printing, 60.

For multiple works by the same author, further disambiguation may be necessary, such as including a shortened version of the title. The key is that the note allows the reader to easily identify the source of the information, whether it's a direct quotation or an indirect paraphrase.

Citing Indirect Quotes with Chicago Style Author-Date

The author-date system, another widely accepted method within the Chicago Manual of Style, provides in-text citations immediately following the referenced information, with a complete reference list at the end of the document. For indirect quotes in this system, the in-text citation typically includes the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number (though page numbers are sometimes considered optional for paraphrases if the entire work or a substantial portion is being referenced, but they are highly recommended for precision). This system offers a more immediate link between the text and its source.

An indirect quote in the author-date system might look like this: "The early printing presses were crucial for the dissemination of knowledge throughout Europe (Smith 2020, 45)." The information in parentheses serves as the in-text citation. It directs the reader to the full bibliographic entry in the reference list, which would provide all necessary publication details for Smith's book.

The corresponding entry in the reference list at the end of your paper would appear as:

- Smith, John. 2020. The History of Printing. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

The author-date system is often favored in the sciences and social sciences for its clarity and the ease with which readers can locate source material. When employing this system for indirect quotes, consistency in formatting and in including the page number (when applicable and beneficial for precision) is paramount to adhering to Chicago Manual guidelines.

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices for Indirect Quotes

Writers often encounter challenges when incorporating indirect quotes. One of the most common pitfalls is unintentionally falling into too close a resemblance to the original wording, a practice known as patchwriting. This occurs when a writer changes only a few words or the sentence structure slightly, which can still be considered plagiarism. To avoid this, focus on understanding the core idea and then explaining it entirely in your own words, as if you were teaching it to someone else.

Another frequent error is omitting citations. Even when you are paraphrasing, the ideas and arguments belong to the original author. Failing to cite an indirect quote is a form of plagiarism, and the Chicago Manual of Style strictly prohibits this. Always attribute the source of any information or idea that is not your own, regardless of whether you have used direct quotation or paraphrasing.

To ensure best practices:

- Read and understand the source thoroughly before attempting to paraphrase.
- Write your paraphrase without looking at the original text.
- Compare your paraphrase to the original to ensure accuracy and to check for unintentional similarities in phrasing.
- Always include a citation, whether using footnotes/endnotes or the author-date system.
- When summarizing, focus on the main points and avoid getting bogged down in minor details.
- Use your own voice and sentence structure consistently throughout your writing.

Adhering to these practices will enhance the quality of your writing and uphold academic integrity.

Advanced Considerations for Indirect Quotations

Beyond basic paraphrasing and citation, the Chicago Manual of Style addresses more complex scenarios involving indirect quotations. For instance, when an author discusses the work of multiple individuals within a single passage, it

is crucial to clearly attribute each idea to its original source. This might involve multiple in-text citations within a single sentence or a carefully constructed sentence that delineates contributions. Precision is key to avoid confusing the reader about who articulated which concept.

Furthermore, when indirect quotes are used to represent nuanced arguments or to summarize lengthy works, it is important to maintain the original author's intent and avoid oversimplification that could lead to misrepresentation. If a particular theory has multiple facets or caveats, a summary should strive to reflect this complexity, perhaps by noting that the author's argument is extensive or multifaceted. The goal is to be accurate and fair to the source material.

Another consideration arises when paraphrasing from secondary sources. If you are discussing an idea presented by Author B, but Author B is themselves quoting or referencing Author A, you should ideally consult Author A's original work. If this is not feasible, Chicago style requires you to cite both Author B (as the secondary source you consulted) and indicate that the information was drawn from Author A's original work. This is often done by using phrases like "cited in" or "as cited by" within the citation itself, especially in the notes and bibliography system, to clearly indicate the chain of reference.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Manual Indirect Quote Examples

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

A: The primary difference is that a direct quote uses the exact wording of the original source, enclosed in quotation marks, while an indirect quote (or paraphrase) restates the original idea in your own words and sentence structure.

Q: Do I always need to cite an indirect quote according to the Chicago Manual?

A: Yes, absolutely. The Chicago Manual of Style, like all academic citation styles, requires that you cite all indirect quotes to give credit to the original author and avoid plagiarism.

Q: Can I just change a few words in a sentence to make it an indirect quote?

A: No, this is not true paraphrasing and can be considered plagiarism. Effective indirect quoting requires significant rewriting of the original sentence structure and vocabulary to convey the idea in your own voice.

Q: How do I cite an indirect quote using Chicago's notes and bibliography system?

A: You will use a footnote or endnote with a number corresponding to the citation in your text. The note will typically include the author's last name, a shortened title of the work, and the page number where the idea can be found. Full bibliographic details go in the bibliography.

Q: What is the format for an indirect quote citation in the Chicago author-date system?

A: In the author-date system, the in-text citation for an indirect quote includes the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number in parentheses, e.g., (Smith 2020, 45).

Q: Is it acceptable to summarize a long passage using an indirect quote in Chicago style?

A: Yes, summarizing is a form of indirect quotation. However, ensure your summary accurately reflects the main points of the original passage and always include a citation to the source.

Q: What if I am paraphrasing an idea from a source that is itself quoting another author?

A: According to Chicago style, you should ideally consult the original source. If that is not possible, you would cite the secondary source you used and indicate that the information was originally from another author, often using phrases like "cited in."

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