

chicago style film reviews citation

chicago style film reviews citation is a crucial element for academics, critics, and students alike who engage with cinematic works. Properly citing film reviews ensures academic integrity, allows readers to locate the original source material, and demonstrates a thorough understanding of scholarly conventions. This article provides a comprehensive guide to mastering Chicago style citation for film reviews, covering the nuances of in-text citations and the corresponding bibliography entries. We will delve into the fundamental components of a Chicago style citation for film, explore variations for different types of film sources, and offer practical examples to clarify common scenarios. Whether you are referencing a published review in a journal, a newspaper article, or even an online publication, understanding these principles will elevate the credibility and clarity of your work.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Film Review Citation

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers a robust framework for academic citation, and its guidelines for citing film reviews are designed to be both precise and adaptable. The core principle is to provide enough information for a reader to readily identify and locate the specific review being referenced. This involves detailing the author of the review, the film being reviewed, the publication in which the review appeared, and the relevant date and page information. Adhering to these standards is not merely about following a set of rules; it is about contributing to a transparent and verifiable academic conversation about cinema.

The importance of accurate Chicago style film review citation cannot be overstated. In academic papers, dissertations, and even in professional critical essays, proper citation lends authority and trustworthiness to your arguments. It acknowledges the work of other critics and scholars, preventing plagiarism and demonstrating your research acumen. By meticulously following Chicago style guidelines, you ensure that your readers can easily access the original review to verify your interpretations or to explore the source material further.

Components of a Chicago Style Film Review Citation

A complete Chicago style citation for a film review generally consists of several key pieces of information. These components work together to create a clear and unambiguous reference. Understanding each element is the first step towards constructing accurate citations.

Author of the Review

The author's full name is the primary identifier of the review. This is typically listed as the last name followed by the first name. If the review is unsigned, this element would be omitted, and the citation would begin with the title of the review or the publication.

Title of the Review

The title of the specific review should be enclosed in quotation marks. This helps distinguish the review itself from the film it discusses and the publication in which it is found.

Title of the Film

The title of the film being reviewed is usually italicized. This clearly indicates the subject of the critique.

Publication Information

This is a crucial part of the citation, as it directs the reader to where the review can be found. It includes the name of the journal, newspaper, magazine, or website, as well as volume and issue numbers for periodicals, and the date of publication.

Page Numbers or URL

For print publications, the specific page numbers where the review appears are essential. For online reviews, a stable URL or a persistent identifier (like a DOI, if available) is provided. The date accessed is also often included for online sources.

In-Text Citations for Film Reviews in Chicago Style

Chicago style employs two main systems for citations: notes and bibliography, and author-date. While both are valid, the notes and bibliography system is more commonly used in humanities disciplines like film studies. This system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations.

Notes and Bibliography System

In the notes and bibliography system, a superscript number is placed in the text after the relevant quotation or paraphrased information. This number corresponds to a footnote or endnote that contains the full citation details. For subsequent citations of the same source, a shortened note format is typically used.

For example, the first time a review is cited:

This scene offers a profound commentary on the human condition.

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And the corresponding footnote or endnote would contain the full citation.

For subsequent citations of the same review, a shortened note might look like this:

2

Smith, "A Masterpiece of Modern Cinema."

Author-Date System

Less common for film reviews in humanities, the author-date system uses parenthetical citations within the text, typically including the author's last name, the year of publication, and page numbers if applicable.

For example:

This scene offers a profound commentary on the human condition (Smith 2023, 45).

Bibliography Entries for Film Reviews in Chicago Style

The bibliography, or works cited list, provides a comprehensive list of all sources consulted and cited in your work. Each entry in the bibliography should be formatted consistently according to Chicago style guidelines.

Basic Format for a Journal Review

The general structure for a journal review citation in the bibliography is as follows:

- Reviewer's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Review." Review of Title of Film, by Director's Full Name. Title of Journal, vol. [volume number], no. [issue number], [Year of Publication], pp. [page numbers].

Example:

Chazelle, Damien. "La La Land: A Love Letter to Hollywood." Review of La La Land, by Damien Chazelle. Film Quarterly, vol. 70, no. 2, 2016, pp. 87-91.

Basic Format for a Newspaper Review

For reviews published in newspapers, the format is similar, with slight adjustments for publication details:

- Reviewer's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Review." Review of Title of Film, by Director's Full Name. Name of Newspaper, [City of Publication, if necessary], [Day Month Year of Publication], pp. [page numbers].

Example:

Dargis, Manohla. "A Director of Subtle Powers." Review of *The Irishman*, by Martin Scorsese. *The New York Times*, 1 Nov. 2019, pp. C1, C4.

Basic Format for an Online Review

Citing online reviews requires including the website name and URL, and often the date of access:

- Reviewer's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Review." Review of Title of Film, by Director's Full Name. Name of Website, [Day Month Year of Publication]. URL. Accessed [Day Month Year].

Example:

Scott, A.O. "A Haunting Look at Childhood." Review of *Moonlight*, by Barry Jenkins. *The New York Times*, 18 Oct. 2016. www.nytimes.com/2016/10/19/movies/moonlight-film-review-barry-jenkins.html. Accessed 15 May 2023.

Citing Film Reviews from Different Sources

The specific details required for a Chicago style film review citation can vary depending on the nature of the source. It is essential to be aware of these variations to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Reviews of Films on DVD or Streaming Platforms

When reviewing a film that is primarily accessed via a DVD or a streaming service, the citation might include details about the distributor or platform. However, the primary focus remains on the film and its original release and critical reception.

Reviews of Documentaries and Short Films

The principles remain the same for documentaries and short films. The key is to accurately identify the work and the review's publication details. The title of the documentary or short film would be italicized just as a feature film would be.

Unsigned Reviews

If a review is not attributed to a specific author, the citation will begin with the title of the review itself. The reviewer's name is a fundamental element, and its absence necessitates a structural shift in the citation.

Edited Collections of Film Reviews

If you are citing a film review that has been published as part of an edited collection of essays or reviews, you will need to cite both the individual review and the collection. This involves providing details about the chapter author (the reviewer), the chapter title, the editor(s) of the collection, the title of the collection, and the publication information for the collection.

This systematic approach to citing film reviews in Chicago style ensures that your academic work is both credible and accessible to your readers. By paying close attention to each component and variation, you can confidently navigate the complexities of scholarly citation.

This comprehensive overview of Chicago style film reviews citation equips you with the knowledge to accurately reference a wide array of critical analyses of cinematic works. From understanding the fundamental building blocks of a citation to navigating the nuances of in-text references and bibliography entries across various media, this guide provides the essential tools for academic rigor. Mastering these details not only upholds scholarly standards but also enhances the persuasive power of your own critical engagement with film.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between citing a film review and citing a film itself in Chicago style?

A: When citing a film review in Chicago style, the focus is on the publication that contains the review (e.g., a journal, newspaper, or website) and the individual critic who authored the review. In contrast, citing a film itself typically involves providing the film's title, director, production company, and year of release. The review citation is about a secondary source about the film, while a film citation is about the primary cinematic work.

Q: Do I need to include the director's name in a Chicago style film review citation?

A: Yes, in most Chicago style film review citations, it is standard practice to include the director's name (or the primary creative force) of the film being reviewed. This helps to clearly identify the specific film being discussed within the review, especially if there are multiple films with similar titles.

Q: How do I cite a film review that I found on a blog?

A: When citing a film review from a blog, you will follow a similar format to citing an online review. Include the blogger's name (if available), the title of the blog post (the review), the title of the blog itself, the date of publication, and the URL. If the blog is informal, you might also include the date of access.

Q: What is the correct way to abbreviate months in Chicago style bibliography entries for film reviews?

A: In Chicago style bibliography entries, months are generally abbreviated, with the exception of May, June, and July. For example, January becomes Jan., February becomes Feb., March becomes Mar., April becomes Apr., August becomes Aug., September becomes Sep., October becomes Oct., November becomes Nov., and December becomes Dec.

Q: How do I handle a film review with no author listed?

A: If a film review is published without an author's name, you will begin the citation with the title of the review. The title of the review should be enclosed in quotation marks, and the rest of the citation will follow the standard format for the type of publication (journal, newspaper, online).

Q: Should I use italics for the film title in both in-text notes and bibliography entries when citing a film review?

A: Yes, the title of the film being reviewed should always be italicized in both your in-text notes (or parenthetical citations) and your bibliography entries when citing a film review. This convention clearly distinguishes the film title from the title of the review and the title of the publication.

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