

chicago style footnote example executive order

The Chicago style footnote example executive order is a critical element for scholars and legal professionals referencing presidential or gubernatorial directives. Properly citing these documents ensures academic integrity and allows readers to verify sources. This comprehensive guide will delve into the intricacies of formatting executive orders within the Chicago Manual of Style, covering both notes and bibliography entries. We will explore the essential components required for accurate citation, common challenges encountered, and provide clear, actionable examples. Understanding these guidelines is paramount for anyone engaging with legal or historical texts that incorporate executive actions.

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Understanding Executive Orders in Academic Writing

Executive orders are directives issued by the President of the United States or by state governors that manage operations of the federal or state government. They carry the force of law but are not legislation passed by Congress or state legislatures. In academic contexts, particularly in fields like history, political science, law, and public administration, these documents are frequently cited as primary sources.

Accurately attributing these orders is vital for substantiating arguments and demonstrating thorough research. The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a robust framework for this, ensuring clarity and consistency.

The challenge often lies in the unique nature of executive orders, which do not fit neatly into categories like books or journal articles. They are official pronouncements with specific numbering, dates, and often published in various repositories. Researchers must carefully identify the most authoritative source for the executive order they are referencing to ensure their citations are both precise and traceable.

The Chicago Manual of Style: Core Principles for Legal and Governmental Documents

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For academic papers that frequently cite legal and governmental documents, the notes-bibliography system is generally preferred and will be the focus of this guide. This system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources and a bibliography at the end of the work that lists all sources consulted.

Within the notes-bibliography system, CMOS provides specific guidelines for citing various types of governmental and legal materials. These guidelines emphasize the importance of providing enough information for a reader to locate the cited source without ambiguity. This often means including specific details such as the order number, issuing authority, date, and the official publication where the order can be found.

Constructing a Chicago Style Footnote for an Executive Order

A typical Chicago style footnote for an executive order in the notes-bibliography system requires several key pieces of information. The goal is to provide a clear and concise reference that directs the reader to the specific document. While the exact format can have minor variations depending on the publication source, the core elements remain consistent.

The footnote will usually begin with the order number and the name of the issuing president. This is followed by the date the order was signed and issued. Crucially, it must also include information about where the order was officially published. For federal executive orders, this is most commonly the Federal Register or the Code of Federal Regulations.

Key Elements of an Executive Order Footnote Citation

To construct an accurate Chicago style footnote example executive order, consider the following essential components:

- **Executive Order Number:** This is the unique identifier assigned to the order (e.g., Executive Order No. 13949).

- **Issuing Authority:** The name of the President or Governor who issued the order.
- **Date of Issuance:** The date the executive order was signed and officially promulgated.
- **Title of the Executive Order (Optional but Recommended):** If the order has a clear, descriptive title, it can be included for added clarity.
- **Publication Source:** This is the most critical part for locating the order. For federal executive orders, this typically includes:
 - **Volume and Page Number of the Federal Register:** The official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and proclamations.
 - **U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Citation:** The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register.
 - **Public Papers of the President:** A compilation of the official statements, messages, and other presidential writings and compilations.
- **Direct URL (if accessed online and authoritative):** If citing an online version, include the URL, but prioritize official government websites.

Variations in Executive Order Citation

The specific format of a Chicago style footnote example executive order can vary slightly based on the publication source and whether it's a federal or state-level executive order. State executive orders will typically reference their state's equivalent of the Federal Register or official compilation.

For instance, if an executive order is most readily accessible through the Public Papers of the President, the citation would reflect that. Similarly, if the order has been codified in the CFR, citing that official codification is often preferred for its permanence. The key is to be consistent within your work and to provide the most authoritative and easily verifiable source.

Crafting a Bibliography Entry for an Executive Order

The bibliography entry for an executive order follows a similar structure to the footnote but is presented differently. In the notes-bibliography system, the bibliography is an alphabetized list of all sources cited in the text. The primary goal is still to provide enough information for a reader to locate the source.

The structure for a bibliography entry typically includes the order number, issuing authority, title (if applicable), date, and the publication source. Unlike footnotes, the bibliography entry usually omits page numbers unless referencing a specific passage within a larger compilation. It also typically uses a slightly different punctuation style, with periods separating the main components of the citation.

Example Bibliography Entry Structure:

Executive Order No. [Number]. By [President's Name]. [Date of Issuance]. [Publication Source, e.g., Federal Register citation or CFR citation].

Common Pitfalls in Citing Executive Orders

Several common mistakes can occur when citing executive orders using the Chicago style. One of the most frequent is failing to provide a specific publication source, making the order difficult or impossible for a reader to find. Another issue is inconsistent formatting between footnotes and the bibliography.

Over-reliance on unofficial websites or secondary sources can also be problematic. Always strive to cite the original, official publication of the executive order. Additionally, ensuring correct punctuation, capitalization, and the inclusion of all necessary components (number, date, source) are crucial for accurate citation. Remember that the goal is to enable another researcher to find the exact document you consulted.

Practical Chicago Style Footnote Example Executive Order Scenarios

Let's illustrate with a practical Chicago style footnote example executive order. Suppose you are referencing Executive Order 13769, signed by President Donald Trump.

Scenario 1: Citing the Federal Register

If you found the order in the Federal Register, the footnote would look something like this:

Executive Order No. 13769, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," January 27, 2017, 82 FR 8977.

And the corresponding bibliography entry:

Executive Order No. 13769. "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." January 27, 2017. 82 FR 8977.

Scenario 2: Citing the Code of Federal Regulations

If the order has been codified in the CFR, you would cite it as:

Executive Order No. 13769, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," January 27, 2017, 3 C.F.R. 210 (2018).

And the corresponding bibliography entry:

Executive Order No. 13769. "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." January 27, 2017. 3 C.F.R. 210 (2018).

Scenario 3: Citing Public Papers of the President

Alternatively, if you are referencing the compilation of presidential documents:

Executive Order No. 13769, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," January 27, 2017, in *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Donald J. Trump, 2017*, bk. 1, 455.

And the corresponding bibliography entry:

Executive Order No. 13769. "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." January 27, 2017. In *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Donald J. Trump, 2017*, bk. 1, 455. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2018.

Advanced Considerations for Citing Executive Orders

For more complex situations, such as citing older executive orders or those from different administrations, researchers may need to consult specific editions of the Chicago Manual of Style or specialized legal citation guides. The principle remains the same: provide sufficient detail to ensure accurate retrieval of the source.

When in doubt, err on the side of providing more information rather than less.

It is also important to note that the internet has made many of these documents more accessible. However, always prioritize official government archives and reputable legal databases. When citing an online version, ensure that the URL is stable and directly links to the authoritative text. The format for online citations may require additional elements such as the date accessed.

FAQ Section

Q: What is the most common publication for federal executive orders when citing in Chicago style?

A: The most common publications for federal executive orders when citing in Chicago style are the Federal Register (FR) for initial publication and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for codification. The Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States is also a common source for compilations.

Q: Do I need to include the full title of an executive order in my footnote?

A: While not always strictly mandatory, including the full title of an executive order in your footnote is highly recommended. It adds clarity and helps readers quickly identify the specific order being referenced, especially if there are multiple orders with similar numbers or dates.

Q: How do I cite a state executive order using Chicago style?

A: Citing a state executive order generally follows the same principles as federal executive orders but uses the official publication source for that specific state. This might be a state register, an official compilation of executive orders, or the state's legislative service. Consult the relevant state government website or legal reference for the exact publication details.

Q: What if an executive order is only available online on an official government website?

A: If an executive order is primarily accessed online through an official government website (e.g., the White House archives or a presidential library), you should include the URL. However, always ensure it's an authoritative source. You may also want to include the date you accessed the document.

Q: Should I use the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system for executive orders in Chicago style?

A: For academic papers that frequently cite legal and governmental documents like executive orders, the notes-bibliography system is generally preferred in Chicago style. It allows for more detailed and flexible referencing within the text via footnotes or endnotes.

Q: Are there specific rules for citing executive orders that have been rescinded or amended?

A: Yes, if an executive order has been rescinded or amended, it is good practice to note this in your citation or in the accompanying text. You would still cite the original order, but you might add a parenthetical note indicating its current status.

Q: How do I handle executive orders with very long titles in my Chicago style footnote?

A: For executive orders with exceptionally long titles, you can often use a shortened version or a descriptive phrase in your footnote after the order number and date, followed by the publication source. Ensure the shortened title is still indicative of the order's content. The full title would typically be present in the bibliography entry.

Q: What is the difference between citing an executive order in a footnote versus the bibliography?

A: In a footnote, you provide a complete citation for the first reference to an executive order, including all necessary details to locate it. Subsequent references to the same order in footnotes can often be shortened (e.g., using the order number and a shortened title). The bibliography entry is a more formal, alphabetized listing of all sources cited, presented without page numbers unless referencing a specific section within a compilation.

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