

chicago style footnote example interview

Understanding Chicago Style Footnotes for Interview Sources

chicago style footnote example interview citation can seem daunting, but it's a crucial skill for academic and professional writing that relies on credible sources like interviews. Properly attributing information gleaned from interviews ensures you give credit where it's due and allows your readers to verify your information. This guide will break down the nuances of citing interviews in Chicago style, covering everything from the basic format to handling specific scenarios. We will explore the essential components of a Chicago style footnote for an interview, discuss variations based on the interview's accessibility, and provide practical examples to demystify the process. Understanding these elements is key to maintaining academic integrity and enhancing the authority of your work.

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What Constitutes an Interview Source in Chicago Style?

In Chicago style, an interview is considered a primary source, meaning it's a firsthand account of an event or topic. This can include a wide range of interactions, from formal, recorded conversations to informal discussions that provide unique insights. The key characteristic is that the information originates directly from the interviewee. When incorporating information from an interview into your writing, it's essential to understand that it carries significant weight due to its direct nature. This differs from secondary sources, which analyze or interpret primary sources.

The decision to cite an interview as a source typically arises when the interviewee possesses unique knowledge, personal experience, or an expert opinion that cannot be readily found elsewhere. This might involve insights into a specific historical event, a nuanced perspective on a contemporary

issue, or personal reflections that add depth to your narrative. Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides guidelines to ensure these valuable primary sources are properly acknowledged.

The Anatomy of a Chicago Style Footnote for an Interview

A Chicago style footnote for an interview consists of several key components that provide the necessary information for your reader to locate and understand the source. These components work together to create a clear and precise citation. Understanding each element is vital for constructing accurate footnotes.

Essential Components of an Interview Footnote

When creating a footnote for an interview, you'll typically include the following information:

- The name of the interviewee.
- The designation of the source as an "interview."
- The date the interview took place.
- The location of the interview (if applicable and relevant).
- Information about how the interview was conducted or accessed (e.g., personal interview, phone interview, recorded interview, transcript available).
- Specific page or time references if quoting directly or referring to a particular section.

The order and inclusion of these elements can vary slightly depending on whether the interview is published, unpublished, or accessed online. The goal is always to provide sufficient detail so the source is unambiguously identifiable.

Basic Chicago Style Footnote for an Interview Example

For a standard, personal interview that you conducted yourself, the footnote format is relatively straightforward. This serves as a foundational example for more complex scenarios.

Personal Interview Footnote

When citing a personal interview you conducted, the footnote typically includes the interviewee's name, the fact that it was an interview, and the date. If you are referencing a specific part of the conversation, you'll include that as well.

Example:

1. John Smith, interview by author, March 15, 2023, Chicago, IL.

If quoting a specific passage:

2. John Smith, interview by author, March 15, 2023, Chicago, IL, audio recording, conversation with author.

In this example, "John Smith" is the interviewee. "interview by author" clarifies who conducted the interview. The date "March 15, 2023" is essential. "Chicago, IL" provides the location. If it were a recorded interview, you might add "audio recording" or if it was transcribed, you'd mention the transcript.

Variations in Interview Citation

The way you cite an interview can change significantly depending on how it was conducted, whether it's been published, and its accessibility to your readers. Chicago style offers flexibility to account for these differences.

Citing Unpublished Interviews

Unpublished interviews, often conducted for specific research projects, require careful citation to ensure their traceability. These are typically personal interviews where you are the interviewer and the recipient of the information.

Example for an unpublished, personal interview:

1. Jane Doe, interview by author, April 10, 2022, phone interview.

If the interview was recorded and you are referencing a specific point:

2. Jane Doe, interview by author, April 10, 2022, phone interview, transcript available, 15:30.

The key here is to indicate if the interview was recorded and if a transcript is available, as this aids in locating the specific information being cited.

Mentioning the medium (phone, in-person) is also helpful.

Citing Published Interviews (e.g., in articles, books)

When an interview has been published, whether in a magazine article, a newspaper, or as part of a book, the citation format shifts to reflect the published work. You are essentially citing the publication where the interview appears.

Example for an interview published in a magazine:

1. Sarah Lee, "The Future of AI," interview by Mark Johnson, Tech Today, August 2023, 45.

Example for an interview published as part of a book:

2. David Chen, "My Journey in Neuroscience," in *Pioneers of Science*, ed. Emily Carter (New York: Academic Press, 2021), 112-115.

In these cases, you include details of the publication, such as the magazine title, issue, date, and page numbers, or the book title, editor, publisher, and page numbers. The interviewee's name and the fact it's an interview are still central.

Citing Online Interviews

Interviews conducted or published online require specific details to ensure they are easily accessible. This includes URLs and access dates.

Example for an online interview on a website:

1. Robert Davis, "Urban Planning in the 21st Century," interview by Anya Sharma, City Living Magazine Online, April 20, 2023, <https://www.citylivingmagazine.com/interviews/robert-davis>.

Example for a podcast interview:

2. Maria Garcia, interview by John Miller, The Innovation Podcast, episode 15, aired January 5, 2023, podcast audio, 00:10:45, <https://www.theinnovationpodcast.com/episodes/15>.

For online sources, the URL is crucial, along with the date the content was accessed. For podcasts, including the episode title, number, and specific timestamp referenced is important for precision.

Handling Interview Transcripts

If you are using a transcript of an interview, whether one you created yourself or one that is publicly available, you will cite it similarly to a manuscript or a book chapter, referencing the transcript directly.

Example for a personal transcript:

1. Interview transcript, Maria Rodriguez, conducted by author, February 1, 2023, personal collection.

Example for a published transcript:

2. "Interview with Dr. Evelyn Reed," in Historical Documents of the Civil Rights Movement, vol. 3, ed. Samuel Jones (Washington D.C.: National Archives Press, 2019), 210-225.

When citing a transcript, clearly identify it as such and provide details about its origin and accessibility. If it's your own transcript, mention that it's in your possession. For published transcripts, treat them as part of a larger published work.

Practical Tips for Chicago Style Interview Footnotes

Creating accurate and consistent footnotes for interviews is essential for academic credibility. Here are some practical tips to help you navigate this process smoothly.

Ensuring Accuracy in Your Footnotes

Double-checking every detail in your footnotes is paramount. Even minor errors can lead to confusion or the appearance of carelessness. Pay close attention to:

- Correct spelling of names (interviewee and interviewer).
- Accurate dates of interviews and publications.
- Precise page numbers or timestamps.
- Complete URLs for online sources.
- Consistent formatting throughout your document.

It's also beneficial to keep a detailed record of all your interviews, including contact information, dates, locations, and any notes about how the interview was conducted or stored. This will be invaluable when you start compiling your footnotes and bibliography.

Consistency in the Bibliography

While footnotes provide immediate source information, your bibliography at the end of your paper lists all sources cited. The format for interviews in the bibliography is similar to the footnote but often omits page numbers unless citing a specific part of a published work.

Example bibliography entry for a personal interview:

Smith, John. Interview by author. March 15, 2023. Chicago, IL.

Example bibliography entry for a published interview:

Lee, Sarah. "The Future of AI." Interview by Mark Johnson. Tech Today, August 2023.

Maintaining consistency between your footnotes and bibliography is crucial. The Chicago Manual of Style provides detailed guidance on both, ensuring a cohesive and professional presentation of your sources.

Consulting the Chicago Manual of Style

For the most authoritative guidance, always refer to the latest edition of The Chicago Manual of Style. This comprehensive resource offers detailed explanations and examples for a vast array of citation scenarios. When in doubt, consult CMOS directly or your instructor's specific guidelines.

The flexibility of Chicago style means you can adapt to various interview formats, from simple personal conversations to complex multimedia productions. The core principle remains: provide enough information for your reader to locate and understand the source of your information, thereby strengthening your argument and acknowledging your sources ethically.

By understanding these principles and practicing their application, you can confidently cite interviews in your Chicago style papers. This attention to detail not only fulfills academic requirements but also demonstrates a commitment to thorough research and honest scholarship. The careful construction of footnotes and bibliography entries for interviews adds significant credibility to your written work.

FAQ

Q: What is the difference between a footnote and a bibliography entry for a Chicago style interview?

A: A footnote provides immediate citation details for a specific mention of information within your text, often including page numbers or timestamps. A bibliography entry at the end of your work provides a complete list of all sources cited, formatted for easy reference and typically omitting pinpoint

citations unless referring to a specific published work where the interview appears.

Q: How do I cite an interview I conducted myself that was recorded and transcribed?

A: For an interview you conducted yourself, recorded, and transcribed, you would cite it in a footnote as follows: Name of Interviewee, interview by author, date of interview, location (if relevant), recording/transcript details. For example: Jane Doe, interview by author, April 10, 2022, phone interview, transcript available.

Q: What if the interview is available online, but there's no clear publication date?

A: If an online interview lacks a specific publication date, use the access date. You would cite it like this: Name of Interviewee, "Title of Interview" (if applicable), interview by Interviewer (if known), Name of Website/Platform, Accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

Q: Can I cite an interview from a podcast in Chicago style?

A: Yes, you can cite interviews from podcasts in Chicago style. The footnote would typically include: Name of Interviewee, interview by Name of Host, Name of Podcast, episode number or title, date aired or published, podcast audio, timestamp of reference, and URL. For example: Maria Garcia, interview by John Miller, The Innovation Podcast, episode 15, aired January 5, 2023, podcast audio, 00:10:45, <https://www.theinnovationpodcast.com/episodes/15>.

Q: What if I interviewed someone, but they asked to remain anonymous?

A: If an interviewee requests anonymity, you should honor that. In your footnote, you can use a descriptor instead of their name, such as "Confidential Source, interview by author, date." In your bibliography, you would list this as "Confidential Source."

Q: How do I cite an interview that was published in a scholarly journal?

A: When citing an interview published in a scholarly journal, you treat it like any other journal article. The footnote would include: Name of Interviewee, "Title of Interview" (if it has one), interview by Name of

Interviewer, Name of Journal volume, no. issue (Year): page numbers.

Q: Is it acceptable to use a shortened footnote for subsequent citations of the same interview?

A: Yes, after the first full citation of an interview in a footnote, subsequent citations can use a shortened form. This typically includes the interviewee's last name and a page number or timestamp, if applicable. For example: Smith, interview by author, 15.

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