

chicago style footnote examples

chicago style footnote examples are a cornerstone of academic and scholarly writing, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. Understanding how to properly cite sources using this system is crucial for maintaining academic integrity and allowing readers to verify your research. This comprehensive guide will delve into the intricacies of Chicago style footnotes, providing clear examples for various source types. We will explore the fundamental principles of footnote citation, differentiate between full and shortened note formats, and illustrate how to cite books, articles, websites, and other common sources. Mastering these elements ensures your work is both credible and adheres to the established standards of scholarly communication.

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Understanding Chicago Style Footnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. The notes-bibliography system, which heavily relies on footnotes or endnotes, is the focus of this article. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation is needed, while endnotes are collected at the end of the document. Both serve the same purpose: to provide readers with detailed information about the source of your information without disrupting the flow of the main text. This system is favored in disciplines where extensive source consultation is common, such as history, literature, and art history.

The primary goal of using Chicago style footnotes is to give credit to the original authors and to allow your readers to locate the sources you consulted. This prevents plagiarism and strengthens the credibility of your own arguments by demonstrating that they are grounded in existing scholarship. Properly formatted footnotes are an essential part of presenting a polished and professional academic work.

The Anatomy of a Chicago Style Footnote

Each Chicago style footnote generally consists of several key components, although the exact order and punctuation can vary slightly depending on the source type. Understanding these components is the first step to constructing accurate citations. The core elements typically include the author's name, the title of the work, publication details (such as place of publication, publisher, and year), and

specific location information (like page numbers).

The first time a source is cited in a footnote, a full citation is generally provided. Subsequent citations of the same source are usually shortened, making the footnotes more concise. This distinction between full and shortened notes is a critical aspect of Chicago style citation.

Basic Footnote Formatting Rules

Before diving into specific source types, it's essential to grasp some fundamental formatting rules that apply to most Chicago style footnotes. These rules ensure consistency and adherence to the manual's guidelines. Pay close attention to punctuation, capitalization, and the use of italics.

- Footnotes are typically numbered sequentially throughout the document.
- The footnote number in the text usually appears immediately after the punctuation of the sentence or clause it refers to, as a superscript without parentheses.
- In the footnote itself, the number is not superscripted and is followed by a period.
- Author's names are usually given in first name, last name order in footnotes, unlike in bibliographies where they are reversed.
- Titles of books and articles are italicized in footnotes.
- Publication information is enclosed in parentheses.
- Page numbers are indicated by "p." for a single page and "pp." for multiple pages.

Citing Books in Chicago Style Footnotes

Citing books is one of the most common tasks when using Chicago style footnotes. The format for a book citation will depend on whether it's the first mention of the book or a subsequent mention.

First Footnote Citation of a Book

The first time you cite a book, you need to provide all the necessary publication details. This full citation helps readers identify the exact edition and publication specifics.

The general format is:

Author's First Name Last Name, *Title of Book* (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number(s).

For example:

1. John Smith, *The History of Chicago Architecture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 45.

If there are two authors, list both names. For more than two authors, you can list the first author followed by "et al." (and others).

Subsequent Footnote Citation of a Book

After the first full citation, you can use a shortened note format for subsequent references to the same book. This makes your footnotes less cumbersome.

The general format is:

Author's Last Name, *Shortened Title*, Page Number(s).

For example:

2. Smith, *History of Chicago Architecture*, 72.

If you are citing a specific part of a book, such as a chapter written by a different author within an edited collection, the format will be slightly different. You will include the chapter author, chapter title, and then the editor and the book title.

Example for a chapter in an edited book (first note):

3. Jane Doe, "Early Skyscrapers," in *Building the Metropolis: A Chicago Anthology*, ed. Robert Jones (New York: Gotham Books, 2020), 112-130.

Example for a chapter in an edited book (subsequent note):

4. Doe, "Early Skyscrapers," 115.

Citing Articles in Chicago Style Footnotes

Journal articles and magazine articles are also frequently cited in academic work. The structure for these citations is similar to books but includes details specific to periodical publications.

Journal Article Footnote Citation (First Note)

For a scholarly journal article, include the author, article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, publication year, and page numbers.

The general format is:

Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number(s).

For example:

5. Emily Davis, "Urban Planning and Public Space in 19th Century Chicago," *Journal of Urban History* 45, no. 2 (2019): 210.

Journal Article Footnote Citation (Subsequent Note)

Similar to books, subsequent citations of journal articles are shortened.

The general format is:

Author's Last Name, "Shortened Title of Article," Page Number(s).

For example:

6. Davis, "Urban Planning," 215.

Magazine Article Footnote Citation

Magazine articles typically require the author, article title, magazine title, date of publication, and page numbers.

The general format is:

Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Title of Magazine*, Month Day, Year, Page Number(s).

For example:

7. Michael Brown, "The Future of Public Transit," *Chicago Magazine*, October 2022, 55.

Citing Websites in Chicago Style Footnotes

Citing online sources requires careful attention to the information available. When citing websites, always try to find the most specific information possible.

Website Footnote Citation

For a webpage, include the author (if available), title of the page, name of the website, publication date (if available), and the URL. It is also good practice to include a retrieval date.

The general format is:

Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Page," Name of Website, Publication Date (or Last Modified Date), Accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

For example:

8. Sarah Miller, "The Great Chicago Fire: An Overview," History of Chicago, January 15, 2023, Accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.historyofchicago.com/greatfireoverview>.

If no author is listed, begin with the title of the page. If no publication or modification date is available, use "n.d." (no date).

Citing Other Common Sources

Beyond books and articles, academic research often involves citing various other types of sources. The Chicago Manual of Style provides guidelines for these as well.

Newspaper Article Footnote Citation

For newspaper articles, provide the author, article title, newspaper title, date of publication, and page numbers.

The general format is:

Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Title of Newspaper*, Month Day, Year, Page Number(s).

For example:

9. Robert Green, "New Museum Opens in Millennium Park," *Chicago Tribune*, November 10, 2021, B3.

Documentary Film Footnote Citation

When citing a documentary film, include the director, film title, production company, and year of release.

The general format is:

Directed by First Name Last Name, *Title of Film* (Production Company, Year).

For example:

10. Directed by Ava DuVernay, *13th* (Netflix, 2016).

Personal Communication Footnote Citation

For information gained through personal interviews or correspondence, cite it as personal communication. This is usually not included in a bibliography.

The general format is:

First Name Last Name (personal communication, Month Day, Year).

For example:

11. John Doe (personal communication, October 25, 2023).

The Importance of Consistency in Chicago Style Footnotes

Regardless of the specific source types you are citing, the most critical aspect of using Chicago style footnotes correctly is maintaining consistency. Once you establish a format for a particular type of source, adhere to it throughout your entire document. Inconsistencies can be distracting to readers and may be seen as a lack of attention to detail by your instructors or editors. Always refer to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* or a reliable style guide based on it if you encounter unusual source types or have specific questions.

This careful attention to detail in your Chicago style footnote examples will elevate the professionalism and credibility of your written work. Proper citation is not just a requirement; it's a fundamental part of scholarly discourse.

FAQ

Q: What is the difference between a footnote and an endnote in Chicago style?

A: In Chicago style's notes-bibliography system, both footnotes and endnotes serve the same purpose: to cite sources. The primary difference lies in their placement. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation is referenced in the text, while endnotes are compiled at the end of the document, before the bibliography. The formatting within the note itself is generally identical.

Q: When do I use a full footnote versus a shortened footnote in Chicago style?

A: You use a full footnote the first time you cite a particular source in your document. This provides all the necessary bibliographic information. For any subsequent citations of that same source, you use a

shortened footnote, which typically includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title, and the relevant page number(s).

Q: How do I cite a source with no author listed in a Chicago style footnote?

A: If a source has no author, you typically begin the footnote citation with the title of the work. For books, the title is italicized. For articles or chapters, the title is put in quotation marks. Follow the title with the publication information as usual.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a book with multiple editions in Chicago style footnotes?

A: When citing a book with multiple editions, you should include the edition number in the full footnote citation. For example, instead of just the publication year, you would add "2nd ed.," "rev. ed.," or similar after the publisher's name and before the publication year. Subsequent shortened notes do not require this information.

Q: How do I cite a chapter from an edited book in a Chicago style footnote?

A: For a chapter in an edited book, the full footnote citation includes the chapter author's name, the chapter title in quotation marks, the word "in" followed by the title of the edited book in italics, the editor's name (preceded by "ed."), the place of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the page numbers for the chapter. Subsequent notes are shortened to the chapter author's last name, a shortened chapter title, and page numbers.

Q: What information should I include for an online article in a Chicago style footnote?

A: For an online article, a full Chicago style footnote typically includes the author's name, the article title in quotation marks, the name of the website (italicized if it's a publication like a magazine or newspaper online), the publication or last modified date, the URL, and the date you accessed the page. A shortened note would then use the author's last name and a shortened article title.

Q: How do I handle citing multiple works by the same author in Chicago style footnotes?

A: When you have multiple works by the same author, the first citation of each work uses the full footnote format. For subsequent shortened citations of these works, if you have more than one work by that author cited, you should include a shortened version of the title along with the author's last name to distinguish them.

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