



Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography (17th ed.) Written Unconventional Sources

General Guidelines

- Chicago is organized into two separate styles: Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date. Notes-Bibliography (NB) is by far the more commonly used style. If your professor only specifies Chicago, it is safe to assume they mean Notes-Bibliography.
- Notes-Bibliography uses footnotes and endnotes instead of traditional in-text citations. Your professor will usually specify whether they prefer footnotes or endnotes. If your professor does not specify, you can usually use footnotes.
- There are two citation formats for every source: one that is used on the bibliography page and one that is used in footnotes or endnotes. These are similar but not identical.

Bibliography

- The bibliography page should begin at the top of a new page.
- The bibliography page should be labeled “Bibliography,” not “References” or “Works Cited.” It should be the same font size as the rest of your paper. It should not be placed in quotes, italicized, or bolded, but it should be centered on the page.
- Leave two blank lines (single-spaced) between the label “Bibliography” and your first bibliography entry.
- Your bibliography entries themselves should be single-spaced, but there should be one blank line (single-spaced) left between entries.
- Entries should be alphabetized by the first word of the entry.



Notes

- Footnotes appear at the end of each page. Endnotes appear immediately after the body of the paper but before the bibliography page.
- Notes should be numbered with Arabic numerals in order of occurrence throughout the text.
- Within the text, notes should be superscripted and placed at the end of the sentence to which it refers. Superscripts should always be placed after punctuation marks.
- Notes themselves should be single-spaced, indented by half an inch, and begin with a normal-text Arabic numeral followed by a period.
- The first time you cite a source, you should use the full footnote citation. If you cite the same source again in your paper, you may use the shortened footnote.

Newspaper Articles

Print Newspapers:

Note:

1. Callie Harkins, "Virginia State District 27 Debate Highlights All Sides," *Weekly Ringer* (Fredericksburg, VA), October 6, 2023, 2.

Shortened Note:

2. Harkins, "Debate," 2.

Bibliography Entry:

Harkins, Callie. "Virginia State District 27 Debate Highlights All Sides." *Fredericksburg (VA) Weekly Ringer*, October 6, 2023.

Speaking and Writing Center [1]: Note that while bibliography entries use a hanging indent, footnotes use a standard first-line indent, not a hanging indent.

Speaking and Writing Center [2]: Note that "Ibid." is no longer used in the most recent version of Chicago.

Speaking and Writing Center [3]: In the note, the author's name should be formatted in first name-last name format and followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [4]: The title of the article should be formatted in quotation marks. In the note, it should be followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [5]: Note that the title of the newspaper should be italicized. The "The" in newspaper titles should be omitted in both the note and the bibliography entry. For example, "The New York Times" would just be written as "New York Times."

Speaking and Writing Center [6]: For newspapers that are not nationally well-known, the location should be listed in parentheses after the title. The city should be listed followed by a comma and then the two-letter abbreviation for the state.

Speaking and Writing Center [7]: The date should be formatted in month day, year format. Do not abbreviate the name of the month.

Speaking and Writing Center [8]: Here, you should include the page number where the specific information you are referencing appears. If the newspaper you are referencing does not have numbered pages, you may omit this.

Speaking and Writing Center [9]: For the shortened note, you should use the last name followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [10]: For the shortened note, you should use a shortened version of the title. For the shortened title, you should select a key 1-3 word phrase, generally a noun or noun-phrase, that best lets you know what the source is about and distinguishes the article from others you may have referenced.

Speaking and Writing Center [11]: Note that bibliography entries should not be numbered or bulleted.

Speaking and Writing Center [12]: Note that in the bibliography, the author's name should be formatted in last name, first name format and followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [13]: Note that in the bibliography entry, the title of the article should be followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [14]: Note that for the bibliography entry, you should omit the page range for the article.



Newspaper Articles from Websites:

Note:

3. Aaron Blake, "How Historic the House GOP's Chaos Is, By the Numbers,"
Washington Post, October 11, 2023,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/10/11/how-historic-house-gops-chaos-is-by-numbers/>.

Shortened Note:

4. Blake, "GOP's Chaos."

Bibliography Entry:

Blake, Aaron. "How Historic the House GOP's Chaos Is, By the Numbers."
Washington Post, October 11, 2023,
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/10/11/how-historic-house-gops-chaos-is-by-numbers/>.

Ancient, Sacred, Medieval, or Classical Texts

Note:

1. Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*, 1.40, trans. James Romanes
Sibbald, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1884).
<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/41537/pg41537-images.html>.

2. John 16:22 (New Revised Standard Version).

Shortened Note:

3. Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, 3.22.

4. John 16:22 (NRSV).

Bibliography Entry:

Alighieri, Dante. *The Divine Comedy*. Translated by James Romanes Sibbald.
Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1884.
<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/41537/pg41537-images.html>.

Speaking and Writing Center [15]: You should always remove the hyperlink from URLs so that they do not appear blue or underlined. You can usually do this by right-clicking on the link and selecting remove hyperlink.

Speaking and Writing Center [16]: These kinds of texts follow the patterns of what is called classical citation in the notes, because there are so many different versions of classical texts out there that using the page number from a specific edition can be less than helpful. Therefore, classical citation uses the internal numbering system of the work (book/chapter/verse/line numbers) rather than traditional page numbers.

Speaking and Writing Center [17]: Here, you should list the author's name, followed by a comma. If the author's name is unknown, simply omit it and begin the citation with the title of the work.

Speaking and Writing Center [18]: The title of the work should be italicized and followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [19]: This numbering system references canto 1, line 40. A period should follow each number, with no spaces between the numbers and periods. In some cases, you may have three numbers instead of two, such as when referencing a classic play, which might use an act.scene.line structure.

Speaking and Writing Center [20]: The internal numbering should be followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [21]: In many cases, the translator is also the editor, in which case it is only necessary to list them once. However, if there is a different editor and translator, the translator should be listed first, followed by a comma, and then the editor should be listed following the abbreviation "ed."

Speaking and Writing Center [22]: In parentheses, you should list the city of publication, followed by a colon, and then the publisher, followed by a comma, and finally the year of publication.

Speaking and Writing Center [23]: For books consulted online, you should include a URL at the end of your citation. For physical books, simply omit this.

Speaking and Writing Center [24]: For sacred texts such as the Bible, a comma does not follow the author's name.

Speaking and Writing Center [25]: Note that sacred texts usually use a colon instead of a period between numbers.

Speaking and Writing Center [26]: You should always include the version of the bible you used in parentheses at the end of the citation. The first time you cite the source, you should use the full name of the version.

Speaking and Writing Center [27]: The shortened note only needs to contain the author, title, and internal pagination.

Speaking and Writing Center [28]: For shortened notes, you can abbreviate the name of the version.

Speaking and Writing Center [29]: The bibliography entry, however, does not follow the conventions of classical citation, and you should include all the bibliographic information for the specific edition of the source you used as per usual. The exception to this is when citing the Bible, which is usually only cited in notes and does not appear in the bibliography.

Speaking and Writing Center [30]: In the bibliography, you should write out "Translated by" instead of using the abbreviation.



Theses & Dissertations

Note:

1. Phillip Golner, "Good White Christians: How Religion Created Race and Ethnic Privilege for Immigrants in America" (dissertation, University of Notre Dame, 2016), 16.

Shortened Note:

2. Philip, "Good White Christians."

Bibliography Entry:

- Gollner, Phillip. "Good White Christians: How Religion Created Race and Ethnic Privilege for Immigrants in America." Dissertation, University of Notre Dame, 2016.

Court Cases & Decisions

Note:

1. Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).
2. Black v. Commonwealth, 262 Va. 764 (2001).
3. Khanna v. Dominion Bank of N. Va., N.A., 377 S.E.2d 378 (Va. 1989).

Speaking and Writing Center [31]: In the notes, the author's name should be formatted in first name last name format and followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [32]: The title should be formatted in quotation marks. Note that no punctuation follows the title.

Speaking and Writing Center [33]: In parentheses, the kind of publication (master's thesis or dissertation), the University for which the thesis or dissertation was written, and the date of publication should be listed and separated by commas.

Speaking and Writing Center [34]: A comma should follow the parentheses.

Speaking and Writing Center [35]: Here, you should include the page number of the specific piece you are referencing. It should be followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [36]: In the bibliography, the author's name is formatted in last name, first name format and followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [37]: In the bibliography entry, the title is followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [38]: In the bibliography, this information is not formatted in parentheses, but it is still separated by commas.

Speaking and Writing Center [39]: Court cases are only cited in the notes. They are not included in the bibliography.

Speaking and Writing Center [40]: Here, you should put the name of the court case followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [41]: This information references the volume number of the court reporter, the abbreviated name of the court reporter, and the page number on which the case appears in the print version of the reporter. This information usually appears as a chunk at the top of the case whenever you are viewing the case. The abbreviation U.S. references United States Reports, which publishes all supreme court cases, and is the preferred reporter for Chicago. If United States Reports is not available, the Supreme Court Reporter (abbreviated S. Ct.) may be cited.

Speaking and Writing Center [42]: Because United States Reports and the Supreme Court Reporter only publish Supreme Court Cases, the court is implied by the abbreviated name of the court reporter, and the court does not need to be specified again here. Here, you only need to include the year the case was decided in parentheses.

Speaking and Writing Center [43]: Like the example above, the court is understood from the abbreviation of the court reporter. Va. stands for Virginia Reports, which only publishes cases from the Virginia Supreme Court, so it is understood that the court is the Virginia Supreme Court.

Speaking and Writing Center [44]: In this example, the court reporter (S.E.2d) does not make clear which court decided this case, so an abbreviation for the court appears before the year. S.E.2d refers to the South Eastern Reporter, which reports on multiple southeastern states, so it is necessary to specify which court this case was decided in.



Social Media Content

Text:

UMW president Troy Paino spreads awareness about student voter engagement in his tweet: “Students were outside on this beautiful fall day giving rides to their fellow eagles to help them exercise their right to vote” (@PresTPain, November 8, 2022).

Note:

1. University of Mary Washington, “UMW Theatre launched their season last month with the sensational “Murder on the Orient Express,” drawing an incredible crowd and soaring ticket sales,” Facebook, October 5, 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofMaryWashington/>.

2. Troy Paino (@PresTPain), “Students were outside on this beautiful fall day giving rides to their fellow eagles to help them exercise their right to vote,” X, formerly known as Twitter, November 8, 2022, <https://twitter.com/PresTPain/status/1590100302703001600>.

Shortened Note:

3. University of Mary Washington, “UMW Theatre.”
4. Paino, “Students.”

Bibliography Entry:

University of Mary Washington. “UMW Theatre launched their season last month with the sensational “Murder on the Orient Express,” drawing an incredible crowd and soaring ticket sales.” Facebook, October 5, 2023. <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofMaryWashington/>.

Paino, Troy (@PresTPain). “Students were outside on this beautiful fall day giving rides to their fellow eagles to help them exercise their right to vote.” X, formerly known as Twitter, November 8, 2022. <https://twitter.com/PresTPain/status/1590100302703001600>.

Speaking and Writing Center [45]: Chicago does not have different formats for different kinds of social media posts. Instead, all social media posts follow the same format for citation. Usually, a formal citation is not needed for a social media post. It may be sufficient to reference the social media post in the body of the essay and include a footnote if a more formal citation is needed. Social media content rarely needs to be included in the bibliography, but check with your professor.

Speaking and Writing Center [46]: Here, the in-text reference specifies the name of the person who created the post.

Speaking and Writing Center [47]: Here, the in-text reference specifies the type of social media post being referenced.

Speaking and Writing Center [48]: A parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence should include the username of the account followed by a comma and the date the post was made.

Speaking and Writing Center [49]: Here, you should include the real name or organizational name (if known) of the person who made the post. In the notes, this should be followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [50]: In place of a title, you should quote up to the first 160 characters of the post. You should format the text exactly as it appears in the post, staying faithful to capitalization, etc. In the notes, this should be followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [51]: Here, you should include the name of the site where the post was made followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [52]: Note that it may be difficult to see the exact date for some social media posts, as many platforms tend to list posts by the number of days, months, or years ago they were made rather than displaying the exact date. However, if you hover over this information with your cursor, it should display the exact date. In the notes, the date should be followed by a comma.

Speaking and Writing Center [53]: Remember to remove the hyperlink so that the URL does not appear blue or underlined.

Speaking and Writing Center [54]: For social media platforms where users have specific usernames that are different from their actual names, you should include the username with the @ symbol in parentheses following the name of the poster. If the real name of the poster is unknown, you may omit it and list only the username. If this is the case, you should also omit the parentheses.

Speaking and Writing Center [55]: Citation styles have not yet updated to take into account the name-change of Twitter, but this is the most common approach to handling the new name of the website.

Speaking and Writing Center [56]: If only the username is known, you should use the username here in place of the name of the poster. The username is not abbreviated.

Speaking and Writing Center [57]: In the bibliography entry, the name of the poster should be followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [58]: In the bibliography entry, the content of the post should be followed by a period.

Speaking and Writing Center [59]: Unlike in other places in the bibliography, the name of the site where the post was made should be followed by a comma, not a period, just as it is formatted in the notes.

Speaking and Writing Center [60]: When the name of the poster is an individual rather than an organization, their name should be formatted in last name, first name format in the bibliography.