

Writing and Tutorial Center

Citation Style: Chicago

Chicago style is often used for published works. For the citation, there are two varieties; author-date, and notes and bibliography. While in-text citation is different in the two styles, the bibliography entry is the same.

Author-date system uses in-text or parenthetical citation by author's last name and year of publication, then matching to a full reference list with the full bibliographic information. This system emphasizes researchers and the recency of a source, so it is more common in the sciences and social sciences.

Notes and bibliography cites using numbered footnotes, which have a simplified citation and correspond to a full entry in a bibliography. It's a more flexible system that is often used in the humanities, especially in literature, history, or art. Your bibliography should start on a new page and be organized in alphabetical order from the author's last name, or other first word of the citation.

In the middle of a paragraph it can be jarring to read a long source. Therefore, Chicago uses footnotes that allow for better flow in reading while still clearly delineating sources.

Take this example:

EXAMPLE

Whitehead tells us that "You are a New Yorker when what was there before is more real and solid than what is here now."¹

The corresponding footnote would like like this:

EXAMPLE

First Name Last Name, *Title* (Publisher, Year), Page Number(s)

¹ Colson Whitehead, *The Colossus of New York* (Anchor Books, 2004), 4

And if the book were cited again:

EXAMPLE

Last Name, *Title*, Page Number(s)

² Whitehead, *The Colossus of New York*, 4

The bibliography entry would then be:

EXAMPLE

Last Name, First Name. *Title*. Publisher, Year.

Whitehead, Colson. *The Colossus of New York*. Anchor Books, 2004.

	Footnote	Bibliography	Example Footnote	Example Bibliography
Book with Multiple Authors	First Last and First Last, <i>Title</i> (Publisher, Year) or for 3+ authors: First Last et al. <i>Title</i> (Publisher, Year)	Last, First and First Last. <i>Title</i> . Publisher, Year. Last, First, First Last, First Last, et al. <i>Title</i> . Publisher, Year.	David Graeber and David Wengrow, <i>The Dawn of Everything</i> (Allen Lane, 2021). Elizabeth Pollard et al. <i>Worlds Together, Worlds Apart</i> (W. W. Norton & Company, 2015).	Graeber, David and David Wengrow. <i>The Dawn of Everything</i> . Allen Lane, 2021. Pollard, Elizabeth, Clifford Rosenberg, Robert Tignor, et al. <i>Worlds Together, Worlds Apart</i> . W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.
Translated Book	Original Author, <i>Title</i> , trans. Translator (Publisher, Year)	Original Author. <i>Title</i> . Translated by Translator. Publisher, Year.	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , trans. Emily Wilson (W. W. Norton & Company, 2018) 43	Homer. <i>The Odyssey</i> . Translated by Emily Wilson. W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.
Article / Magazine	First Last, "Title," <i>Container</i> , Date. URL	Last, First. "Title." <i>Container</i> , Date. URL.	Margaret Renkl, "What if Robert Frost's Neighbor Was Right?," <i>The New York Times</i> , June 2, 2025. https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/02/opinion/robert-frost-neighbors-fences.html	Renkly, Margaret. "What if Robert Frost's Neighbor Was Right?" <i>The New York Times</i> , June 2, 2025. https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/02/opinion/robert-frost-neighbors-fences.html .
Web Source	"Title" Organization, Date. URL	Organization. "Title." Date. URL.	"About The Institute," Pratt Institute, accessed May 6, 2025. https://www.pratt.edu/about/	Pratt Institute. "About the Institute." Accessed May 6, 2025. https://www.pratt.edu/about/ .
Art Piece	First Last, <i>Title or description</i> , Date, Medium, Size, Institute, Location, Museum Accession Number, URL	Last, First. <i>Title or description</i> . Date. Medium, Size. Institute, Location. Museum Accession Number. URL.	John Singer Sargent, <i>Madam X</i> , 1883-84, Oil on canvas, 82 1/8 x 43 1/4 in, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/12127	Sargent, John Singer. <i>Madam X</i> . 1883-84. Oil on canvas. 82 1/8 x 43 1/4 in. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/12127 .
Movies	<i>Title</i> , directed by First Last (Production Company, Year), Timestamp, Format	First Last, director. <i>Movie Title</i> . Production Company, Year. Length. Format.	<i>Parasite</i> , directed by Bong Joon-ho (Curzon Artificial Eye, 2020), 1:15:27, Blu-ray Disc, 1080p HD.	Bong Joon-ho, director. <i>Parasite</i> . Curzon Artificial Eye, 2020. 2 hr., 11 min. Blu-ray Disc, 1080p HD.

One of the benefits of the Chicago citation is that it is constantly updated and working to adapt to changing technology, from the earliest printing presses to recent suggestions for social media punctuation!

"[CMOS History 1906 - The Present](#)" from The Chicago Manual of Style.

For more details check out [Scribbr's article on bibliographies](#) or [Purdue Owl's Chicago Guide](#).