

CITING YOUR SOURCES

Any idea or fact that was not an original thought out of your head must be cited.

WHY WE CITE

Citations serve many functions.

- ▶ A citation lets the reader know that an idea came from someone other than you
- ▶ A citation from an expert source lends authority to your argument
- ▶ A citation tells the reader where to go to find out more about the idea.

Whenever you quote something from another source, you need to cite it. Whenever you reference an idea you found in someone else's work, you need to cite it.

For example: If you read in a book that Godzilla killed a million people, whereas you found in another book that Napoleon only killed half a million people, you could use these two facts together in support of your argument that Napoleon was less harmful than Godzilla. You would need to cite both sources:

Napoleon may have caused the deaths of half a million people,¹ but Godzilla caused twice as many.² The general's destructive power is clearly no match for that of the rampaging monster.

In other words, even when you are not directly quoting your source, you still must cite it.

WHERE WE CITE

There are two places where your sources get cited:

- ▶ *In footnotes.* A footnote is your source for a particular idea of quote. Every time you use a source, you create a new footnote and cite it, even if you've already cited that source before earlier in your paper. Because a footnote is used to point to a specific idea expressed in a specific place in a work, it usually contains a page number.
- ▶ *In the bibliography.* The bibliography is a list of all the sources you used. Each source is listed once.

These are separate things. Do not make your footnotes just references to numbered bibliography items.

HOW WE CITE

You should consult a fuller reference on citations; the one used here is:

University of Chicago Press. *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Here you see the information needed for anyone to find the work being cited:

- ▶ The author [normally a person, of course, but in this case, an organization];
- ▶ The title;
- ▶ Version or edition;
- ▶ Location and name of publisher;
- ▶ Copyright or publication date.

This is the bibliography entry. The footnote entry is formatted slightly differently.³ Because a footnote is used to point to a specific idea expressed in a specific place in a work, it usually contains a page number.

¹ John Doe, *Stuff that Napoleon Did*, 324th edition (New York: Fictitious Publishers, 1932), 471.

² Fred Flintstone, *Godzilla Was Not My Grandfather* (Bedrock: Dodo Bird Press, 10,000 BCE), 12.

SAMPLE CITATIONS

The following styles are derived directly from *The Chicago Manual of Style* (15th ed.), accessible online at <http://chicagomanualofstyle.org>.

- ▶ All sources you use must appear (once) in the Bibliography. The publication information and year are important in that they both help establish the reliability of the work and make it easier to find the work should the reader want to find out more.
- ▶ All facts, quotes, paraphrases, and ideas from your sources used in your paper must be cited with either footnotes or in-text citations.

BOOK

Here's a sample footnote for a book, where the information being cited is on page 65:

1. Wendy Doniger, *Splitting the Difference* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999), 65.

Your bibliography citation for the same book will look like this. Note that no page numbers are used here: in the bibliography you're talking about the book itself.

Doniger, Wendy. *Splitting the Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

CHAPTER OF A BOOK

Sometimes books have chapters written by different people. In that case, you cite the chapter and the person or people who wrote it. Here's a sample footnote, citing info that appears on pages 101–102.

5. Andrew Wiese, "The House I Live In": Race, Class, and African American Suburban Dreams in the Postwar United States," in *The New Suburban History*, ed. Kevin M. Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006), 101–2.

And here's the bibliography cite for the same chapter. Note that the page range for the whole chapter is given.

Wiese, Andrew. "The House I Live In": Race, Class, and African American Suburban Dreams in the Postwar United States." In *The New Suburban History*, edited by Kevin M. Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue, 99–119. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.

JOURNAL ARTICLE

An article in a scholarly journal is cited a little differently:

8. John Maynard Smith, "The Origin of Altruism," *Nature* 393 (1998): 639.

Note that you have the journal title (*Nature*), followed by the volume of the journal and the year it was published. The info being cited is on page 639.

For the bibliography, you show the pages for the whole article.

Smith, John Maynard. "The Origin of Altruism." *Nature* 393 (1998): 639–40.

³ University of Chicago Press, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2003), 656.