

CITATION GUIDE

Historians typically use numbered citation systems (with either footnotes or endnotes) rather than the parenthetical citation systems favored by many social scientists. That's because we love our sources and use lots of them! For detailed instructions, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the online guide to [Chicago/Turabian Documentation](#) provided by the University of Wisconsin Writing Center.

When to cite and when not to cite?

When your essay refers to an author's original argument, or deploys specific evidence (a quotation, a statistic, an image, etc.) to make a point, you must use a citation. When your essay refers to widely accepted ideas and facts—that college students are often confused about how to cite sources, for instance—no citation is necessary.

When do I cite specific page numbers?

When you are quoting any unique word, phrase, sentence, or extract, you must always cite the page number(s). When you are referring to an author's overall argument, it is permissible to cite the author's work without specific page numbers. However, when you are referring to a particular part of an author's work, such as a case study covered in a single chapter of a book, then you should cite that part. As a general rule, the more specific your use of the source, the more specific the citation should be.

Common Examples

Note: Book, journal, newspaper, and magazine titles are italicized or underlined. So are the titles of legal cases. Article and chapter titles use quotation marks, as do the titles of plays, television shows, and films.

a single-authored book

Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (New York: Knopf, 2003).

an edited collection

Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson, eds., *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1983).

one part of an edited collection

John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity," in *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, eds. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1983), 100-113.

a journal article

Deborah J. Coon, "'One Moment in the World's Salvation': Anarchism and the Radicalization of William James," *Journal of American History* 83 (June 1996):70-99.

a magazine article

Kenneth B. Clark, “‘The Wonder Is There Have Been So Few Riots’,” New York Times Magazine, September 5, 1965, 10-11, 38, 45, 48.

a newspaper article

Daniel Goleman, “Mental Disorder Common, but Few Get Treatment, Study Finds,” New York Times, March 17, 1993, C13.

a thesis or dissertation

Catherine Kerr, “Race in the Making of American Liberalism, 1912-1965” (Ph.D. diss., Johns Hopkins University, 1995).

an Internet source

Jane Addams, “Why Women Should Vote,” 1915, <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1915janeaddams-vote.html>

an Internet website

Key events of 1985: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/newly-released-files-1985-1986/key-events-1985/>

a video or film

Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer, “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin” (San Francisco: California Newsreel, 2002, video).

an interview or oral history

Professor Peggy Pascoe, interview by author, Eugene, Oregon, October 1, 2003.

a source from a microform collection

Russell Sage Foundation, Charity Organization Department, “Diagnosis and Treatment Record for Families,” 1918, The Russell Sage Foundation: Social Research and Social Action in America, 1907-1947 (Frederick, MD: UPA Academic Editions, an imprint of Congressional Information Service, Inc., 1988), fiche 101, record #CO-17.

an archival source

Memo on Sunshine Nursery, July 19, 1918, United States Children’s Bureau Papers, Box 60, Folder 7349.1, National Archives II.

a source quoted within another source

Hastings Hart, quoted in W.H. Slingerland, Child-Placing in Families: A Manual for Students and Social Workers (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1919),