A Cite for Sore Eyes: A Short Guide to Citing Sources in Historical Writing

The following demonstrates the Chicago Style, which is the preferred method of citation in historical writing. When a teacher asks for you to follow the Chicago Style, do not turn in a deep dish paper or a paper covered with hot dog fixings. That’s the wrong Chicago Style. In these examples, N stands for “notes,” which is what you should write in your endnotes or footnotes. B stands for “bibliography,” which is what you should write in your…you guessed it, bibliography. You can see that you indent the first line of each note, but leave subsequent lines flush with the left margin (with a ten-point font). When making entries in your bibliography, on the other hand, you leave the first line flush with the left margin, and indent each subsequent line (with a twelve-point font).

**Book: Single Author or Editor**


**Book: Multiple Authors or Editors**


**Book: A Single Chapter in an Edited Volume**


**Journal Article**


Newspapers
B: As a general rule, you do not need to list a newspaper article in your bibliography unless it is significant to your argument or appears multiple times.

Lectures and Papers Presented at Meetings

Paintings, Sculptures, and Photographs
B: As with newspaper articles, you need not list paintings, sculptures, and photographs in your bibliography unless they are significant to your argument or appear multiple times.

Movies and Television

Electronics Books

Shortening Notes
When referencing a text for the first time, include the entire citation. For example:

For subsequent citations, use the shortened note.

If you are referencing the same text in the very next note, use ibid., which is an abbreviation for the Latin word ibidem, meaning “in the same place.” If you are referencing the same page from the same text, you do not need to include the page number (see note eighty-three). For example:
82. Ibid., 108.
83. Ibid.

Need more information?
For a more comprehensive explanation of the Chicago Style, see Kate L. Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers.