Formatting Your Research Paper Using Chicago Style

This handout helps students' format research papers in Chicago style. Always keep in mind that your instructor is the authority.

Title Page
Check with your instructor to see whether or not you are required to have a title page.

TEXT Home→Font
Font: Times New Roman
Size: 11 or 12 points
Home tab→paragraph:
Center align

Open Paragraph dialog box→Spacing-Double Space

Include your name, the class information, and the date.

E.g. Sarah Smith

Library Science 101

January 28, 2013
This is how you should format your research paper according to Chicago Style guidelines. Read carefully over the given assignment. The instructions will tell you about the formatting your instructor will expect to see in your paper. Follow them!

You want to work on your paper by brainstorming ideas about what you want to research. In order to be successful in the research and writing portions of your assignment, you have to consider the goal: what do you plan to achieve with this research? Think about what you already know about the subject. What do you want to explore, to learn more about, and to share with others? Keep in mind the boundaries your instructor gave you. How many pages does the research paper have to be? How many sources do you have to use, are they all articles or do you have to have books and primary sources, too? How much time have you been given to work on this assignment? Stay focused and organized.

The best research topics come from a well-defined question that you aim to answer or a thesis you aim to prove or disprove in your research. Review all background sources, do some background reading through an encyclopedia, news, and other authoritative resources; think about the topic, the what, the where, the why and the how questions. What are some keywords or synonyms used? Fill those terms into a search. What type of results do you get—too much or too little? As you evaluate the information, does it answer any part of your question? Look at the subject terms the database lists with the article and use them to help narrow or broaden your search. Remember to keep a record of your selected sources along the way. Your working bibliography will help you document your work cited list.

Be sure to use authoritative sources. How do you identify an authoritative source? Look at the layout of the article. Is the layout basic and bland or is it full of color and images? What do the subheadings look like? Is the publisher associated with a university, professional association? Is it a scholarly publisher or is it a commercial publisher? Who is the author’s target audience? A clue to

---

2. Ibid., 31.
3. Ibid., 33.
Footnote Citation

The footnote indicator goes after the punctuation or clause in the text.

References tab → Insert Footnote

Open Paragraph dialog Box →

Spacing: Single; leave a space between each note.

Indent: Special: First line

The first time you cite a source, include the full bibliographic information. This is a place to add notes about the citation or the author that might provide additional context to the information provided in the paper.

#. Author first and last name, “Title of the Article,” in Book Title, ed. Editor (Place of Publication: Publisher, Date), page.

E.g.
Bibliography


---

**Bibliography**

Insert tab → Page Break

**LAYOUT** Home→Paragraph

**Align:** Left align, except the title

**Indent:** Open Paragraph dialog Box→Special: Hanging

**Spacing:** Open Paragraph dialog Box→Spacing-Single

Make sure you insert an extra paragraph to separate your sources.

On a new page, you will list in **ALPHABETICAL order** the sources cited in your paper.

You can automatically rearrange your citations by highlighting them all go to Home→paragraph Click on the button

Refer to the Chicago Style guide to properly format the source information, available in paper form in the library or online from: [http://tinyurl.com/Chicago-KW](http://tinyurl.com/Chicago-KW).