Turabian (Chicago Notes-Bibliography) Style

I'm going to walk you through citing an article from one of UWF's library databases according to Turabian citation style. This will go pretty fast, because the point of this video is to give you a quick overview of the citation process.

1. We start with the author, which we indicate like so: Strang, Cameron B. Turabian requires authors’ names to be flipped around to make it easier to put citations in alphabetical order. And then we add a period, to indicate that this section of the citation is complete.

2. Now the article's title. Articles are small things that are contained in big things, like journals. Small things are indicated using quotation marks at the beginning and end of their titles. It's a code that says "Hey, here's an article." We put a period at the end, inside the quotes. Because it looks prettier that way. And Turabian says so. Now our citation looks like this:


3. The journal title comes next. This is the big thing that contains the article, and we have a code to indicate that, too: italics. Big things like journals always have their titles in italics. No period after this one, because we’re not done with it yet. Journals are periodicals. They have volumes and issues and page numbers. You have to have all of that or the citation is incomplete. Volume comes first. So I look around for something that looks like a volume number-- here we go, at the bottom of the first page: 70. Notice that I don’t write v-o-l or anything before the number. After the volume comes a comma and then the issue number. Here it is, 4, and you DO include n-o in front of that. Then you put the written month and four digit year in parentheses, followed by a colon to show the page numbers. And a period to show that this miserable, crazy-making section is finally done. It should look like this:


   Ah. It’s like someone was pounding on my head and they just stopped.

4. Now the date of access. This is an electronically accessed article, and Turabian requires that I show when I found it. I type the word "Accessed" followed by the written, not abbreviated, month, the day, a comma, and the four digit year, followed by a period.

5. And we’re still not done! Next comes the DOI. Yay! Abbreviations. DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier. Here it is at the bottom of the first page. It's a unique string of numbers and letters that are assigned to many articles produced since the year 2000. DOIs are like social security numbers for articles. If your article comes with a DOI, that's what you use to cap off your citation. Here's how. Type in http://dx.doi.org/, followed by the DOI number. Doi.org is the International DOI Foundation. That prefix, when followed by a correct DOI, leads you to a permanent record of that article.


6. But what do you do if your article is old, or just doesn't have a DOI? You show where you found it with a stable URL. That stands for Uniform Resource Locator. It's just the web address for your document. Like this one on the handy information page for the article. A quick warning: DON'T just copy the gibberish from your address bar into the citation and think it's right. It's not. Look for something labeled "stable URL" and use that. You need a web address that'll stick around for a while, and just to warn you, it might be called something else, like "durable URL" or "permalink." Then we close it off a period and add a hanging indent, and:


7. There we are: a complete bibliographic citation. But we're not done. Turabian is double the fun, because it requires two versions of each citation. One for the bibliography at the end of your paper, and another for your footnotes, which are spread throughout the text of your paper. The two citations are pretty close, so at least we don’t need to start over. We can just adapt the bibliographic citation to fit the footnote requirements.

Bibliographic citations use lots of periods; footnotes use lots of commas. To convert a bibliographic citation into a footnote citation I'll go through here and swap out all of the periods for commas, except for the last one, which gets to stay. Now I reformat the author's name: first name, space, last name. Footnotes also require you to indicate the exact page number you're referring to. So instead of the page range (671-700), I have to include just the page where I got the information from: say, 682. Almost done. Again. The last difference has to do with reversing the indentation: the first line of each footnote citation is indented, subsequent lines aren't.

Footnote citations are used wherever you refer to that document in the body of your paper. I put a superscript number at the end of the sentence, with a matching footnote at the bottom of the page. Like so:

Strang suggests that storytelling served dual purposes within Indian society.¹²


So that's Turabian citation style. Before you go, let me make one last recommendation. Get a copy of the *Turabian Manual for Writers*. It'll tell you how to cite anything and everything. We keep a copy behind the UWF Libraries Information Desk, and if you'd like some guidance, our friendly librarians would be happy to help. Citation can be a bottleneck for a lot of students, but it doesn't have to be. Visit the library and let us show you how it's done.