SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Reference An Interview

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795583870779060

Introduction: Why Accurate Interview References Matter

In academic writing, journalism, or professional research, interviews serve as invaluable primary sources. They offer firsthand insights, expert opinions, and unique perspectives that enrich your work. However, incorporating interview content without proper citation can lead to plagiarism or credibility issues. Understanding **how to reference an interview**correctly is essential for maintaining academic integrity, giving credit where it's due, and enabling your readers to verify your sources. This guide covers the major citation styles—APA, MLA, Chicago, and more—and provides clear, practical steps for citing interviews in both print and digital formats.

Whether you conducted the interview yourself, found a published transcript, or listened to a podcast episode, the rules vary. By the end of this article, you will know exactly **how to reference an interview**in your bibliography, reference list, or footnotes. Let’s dive into the specifics.

Understanding the Types of Interviews

Before you can reference an interview, you must identify its type. Citation rules differ depending on whether the interview is published, unpublished, personal, or broadcast. Here are the main categories:

- Personal communication: An interview you conducted yourself, not recorded or published.
- Published interview: One that appears in a newspaper, magazine, journal, book, or online.
- Broadcast or recorded interview: From television, radio, podcast, or video platform like YouTube.
- Transcript: A written version of a recorded interview, often found in archives or supplements.

Each type requires a slightly different approach. The key is to provide enough information for your reader to locate the original source. Now, let’s explore **how to reference an interview** in the most common citation styles.

APA Style (7th Edition): Referencing Interviews

The American Psychological Association (APA) style is widely used in social sciences, education, and psychology. APA distinguishes between personal interviews (non-recoverable data) and published interviews (recoverable data).

Citing a Personal Interview in APA

In APA 7th edition, a personal interview is considered a form of personal communication. Because it is not recoverable by readers, it is **not included in the reference list**. Instead, you cite it only in the text. The format is: (Initial. Last Name, personal communication, Month Day, Year).

In-text example: (J. Smith, personal communication, March 15, 2023)

If you mention the name in the sentence: According to J. Smith (personal communication, March 15, 2023), the findings were inconclusive.

Citing a Published Interview in APA

For a published interview (e.g., in a newspaper, journal, or online), you create a full reference entry. The format depends on where it appears.

- Newspaper or magazine: Author, I. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. Title of Publication. URL
- Example: Brown, L. (2022, June 10). An exclusive interview with Dr. Elena Torres. The Daily Chronicle. https://www.dailychronicle.com/interview-torres

If the interview has its own title, use that; otherwise, describe it in brackets. For broadcast interviews, treat them as audiovisual works.

APA In-Text Citation for Published Interviews

Use the standard author-date format: (Brown, 2022) or Brown (2022). If quoting directly, include the page number or timestamp: (Brown, 2022, p. 12) or (Brown, 2022, 14:30).

MLA Style (9th Edition): Referencing Interviews

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is common in humanities, literature, and arts. MLA treats interviews as a type of "source by interview title" or "source by interviewee."

Citing a Personal Interview in MLA

In MLA, a personal interview is considered a "work by the interviewee." It is listed in the Works Cited page. The format: Last Name, First Name. Description of interview (e.g., Personal interview). Date.

Example: Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 15 Mar. 2023.

If the interview was conducted by you, you can mention that in the description: "Interview by author." However, simply "Personal interview" is sufficient.

Citing a Published Interview in MLA

For a published interview, treat it like a work within a larger container. The basic format:

Interviewee Last Name, First Name. "Title of Interview." *Title of Publication*, interviewer's name, date, pages, URL.

Example: Torres, Elena. "The Future of Renewable Energy." *The Green Review*, interview by Lisa Brown, 10 June 2022, pp. 24-28.

If the interview does not have a title, use "Interview with [interviewee]".

MLA In-Text Citation

Use the interviewee's last name and page number if available: (Torres 24). For personal interviews, skip the page number: (Smith).

Chicago Manual of Style (17th Edition): Footnotes and Bibliography

Chicago style offers two systems: Notes-Bibliography (common in humanities) and Author-Date (social sciences). Interviews are cited differently in each.

Notes-Bibliography System (Humanities)

For a personal interview, use a footnote or endnote. The first note: First Name Last Name (of interviewee), interview by First Name Last Name (of interviewer), Date, format (e.g., tape recording, transcript).

Example: Jane Smith, interview by author, March 15, 2023, digital recording.

In the bibliography, list the interviewee as the author: Smith, Jane. Interview by author. March 15, 2023.

For a published interview, follow the note format for the specific source (e.g., newspaper, journal). Treat the interviewee as the author and add "interview by [interviewer]."

Author-Date System (Sciences)

Personal interviews are usually not listed in the reference list; cite in text as (interviewee name, pers. comm., date). Published interviews appear in the reference list with the interviewee as author and date.

Citing Online and Broadcast Interviews

With the rise of podcasts, YouTube, and streaming, knowing **how to reference an interview**from these media is critical. Here are style-specific guidelines:

APA for Podcasts or YouTube

Format: Host/Producer, I. (Role). (Year, Month Day). Title of podcast episode (No. if applicable) [Audio/Video podcast]. In *Title of Podcast*. Publisher. URL

Example: Green, A. (Host). (2023, January 20). The climate debate: An interview with Dr. Torres (No. 45) [Audio podcast]. *Science Today*. https://sciencetoday.com/ep45

If the interview is the entire episode, treat the interviewee as a guest.

MLA for Broadcast or Podcast

Format: Interviewee Last Name, First Name. "Title of Episode." *Title of Program*, hosted by Host Name, season, episode number, Network/Publisher, Date, URL.

Example: Torres, Elena. "The Climate Debate." *Science Today*, hosted by Alex Green, season 2, episode 45, NPR, 20 Jan. 2023, www.example.com.

Chicago for Recorded Interviews

Treat as audiovisual. In notes: Interviewee First Name Last Name, interview by Interviewer Name, Title of Program, date, medium, running time.

Common Mistakes When Referencing Interviews

Even experienced writers make errors. Avoid these pitfalls:

- Omitting the interviewer's name: Important in published interviews.
- Including personal interviews in the reference list (APA or Chicago Author-Date): Only cite in text if non-recoverable.
- Confusing the interviewee with the author: The interviewee is the primary source, not the journalist who wrote the article.
- Missing timestamps or page numbers for direct quotes: Essential for accuracy.
- Formatting errors in brackets or italics: Each style has strict rules for punctuation and syntax.

How to Reference an Interview in Special Cases

Some interviews require extra attention. Here are three scenarios:

1. Interview Transcript in an Archive

If you access a transcript from a library or online archive, treat it like a published interview. Provide the archive name and location. Example (MLA): Smith, John. Transcript of interview by Mary Jones. *National Archives*, Apr. 2020, www.archives.gov/transcripts/smith.

2. Email or Written Response

Treat it as personal communication (APA in-text only) or as a letter (MLA Works Cited with "Email interview" as description).

3. Group or Multiple Interviewees

List all names in the reference if they are all essential. For a focus group, use the group name or "Focus group."

Why Proper Interview Citation Enhances Your Work

Beyond academic honesty, correct citation demonstrates thorough research. It allows readers to trace your evidence, assess the credibility of your sources, and even conduct their own follow-ups. In journalism, citing an interview properly can protect against accusations of fabrication. In business reports, it adds weight to your data. Mastering **how to reference an interview** is a skill that elevates your writing across disciplines.

Moreover, search engines value structured, citeable content. By using proper references, you contribute to the web of knowledge and improve your own work's SEO performance indirectly through perceived authority.

Conclusion: Putting It Into Practice

Now you have a comprehensive understanding of **how to reference an interview**in APA, MLA, Chicago, and other styles. Remember the golden rule: identify whether the interview is recoverable (published) or non-recoverable (personal). For personal interviews, use in-text citations only in APA and Chicago Author-Date, but include in the reference list in MLA and Chicago Notes-Bibliography. For published interviews, always provide a full citation following the style guide for the container (newspaper, journal, podcast, etc.).

The next time you use interview data, refer back to this guide. Check your style manual for updates, and if in doubt, ask your instructor or editor. Proper citation not only avoids plagiarism but also respects the voices that contribute to your work. Now you can confidently write, cite, and reference interviews with precision.

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#how • #reference • #interview

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-reference-an-interview

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-reference-an-interview

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-reference-an-interview

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-reference-an-interview