

CHOOSING A CITATION STYLE



This handout will assist in selecting a citation style for your paper. Certain disciplines require different citation styles; knowing which one to use will help your writing process.

Why do I need to cite?

Citing information that is not your own is important for several reasons:

1. Citing gives credit to the original author.
 2. Citing helps in avoiding plagiarism and maintaining academic integrity.
 3. Citing allows others to locate the writer's sources.
 4. Citing gives credibility to the writer's claims.
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When do I use APA?

APA is commonly used for scientific writing and advanced research. Examples of scientific writing include, but are not limited to, laboratory reports and papers about research in psychology, education, and mathematics.

When do I use Chicago?

Chicago is a humanities citation format often used for research papers in philosophy, history, and political science courses. It offers two styles – Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date – to cite sources. Notes-Bibliography is the most common style.

When do I use MLA?

MLA is most often used for citing literary research, but also used in other humanities courses, such as theology, philosophy, and others. MLA offers more detail about citing sources like novels, poetry, and anthologies.