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Citing Sources: Which citation style should I use?

An overview of tips, tools, and resources for all your citation needs

Which citation style should I use?

The citation style you choose will largely be dictated by the discipline in which you're writing. For many assignments your instructor will suggest or require a certain style. If you're not sure which one to use, it's always best to **check with your instructor** or, if you are submitting a manuscript, the publisher to see if they require a certain style. In many cases, you may not be required to use any particular style as long as you pick one and use it consistently. If you have some flexibility, use the guide below to help you decide.

Disciplinary Citation Styles

| Arts | Humanities | Social Sciences | Sciences & Medicine | Engineering |

When in doubt, try: ***Chicago Notes***

- Architecture & Landscape Architecture → *try* **Chicago Notes** *or* **Chicago Author-Date**
- Art → *try* **Chicago Notes**
- Art History → *try* **Chicago Notes**
- Dance → *try* **Chicago Notes** *or* **MLA**
- Drama → *try* **Chicago Notes** *or* **MLA**
- Ethnomusicology → *try* **Chicago Notes**
- Music → *try* **Chicago Notes**
- Music History → *try* **Chicago Notes**
- Urban Design & Planning → *try* **Chicago Notes** *or* **Chicago Author-Date**

Pro Tip: Citation Tools Save Time & Stress!

If you're enrolled in classes that each require a different citation style, it can get confusing really fast! The tools on the **Quick Citation Generators** section can help you format citations quickly in many different styles.

<< Previous: Why are there so many citation styles?

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