

the document class set up general layout for ex

1. design: margins, fonts, spacing, etc
2. whether chapters are available
3. if the title should be on a separate page

"

documentclass[<options>]<name>"

article short documents without chapters report longer documents with chapters, single-sided printing book longer documents with chapters, double-sided printing, with front- and back-matter (for example an index) letter correspondence with no sections slides for presentations (but see below)