Citation Style Selection Flowchart

START: What's your academic discipline?

SCIENCES (Psychology, Sociology, Education, Nursing, Business)

→ **Use APA Format** - Author-date citations: (Smith, 2023) - Best for: Social sciences, scientific papers - [Link to APA Guide]

HUMANITIES (Literature, Languages, Arts, Philosophy)

→ **Use MLA Format** - Parenthetical citations: (Smith 23) - Best for: Literary analysis, cultural studies - [Link to MLA Guide]

HISTORY, THEOLOGY, ARTS

→ **Use Chicago Style** - Footnotes/endnotes or author-date - Best for: Historical research, religious studies - [Link to Chicago Guide]

SOCIOLOGY (Specific)

→ **Use ASA Format** - Similar to APA, sociology-specific - Best for: Sociology journals, research - [Link to ASA Guide]

ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE

→ **Use IEEE Format** - Numbered citations: [1], [2] - Best for: Technical papers, engineering - [Link to IEEE Guide]

Quick Decision Tree

Not sure? → Check your assignment guidelines first

Professor didn't specify? → Use this logic: - Science/Social Science → **APA** - Literature/Language → **MLA**
- History/Theology → **Chicago** - Engineering/Tech → **IEEE** - Sociology → **ASA**

Still unsure? → Default to **APA** (most widely accepted)

Key Differences at a Glance

Feature	APA	MLA	Chicago
In-text	(Author, Year)	(Author Page)	Footnotes
Use for	Sciences	Humanities	History
Date emphasis	Yes	No	Optional

Need detailed formatting? Visit our complete citation style guides for templates,

examples, and step-by-step instructions.