

# How to Tell the Difference Between AMA, APA, Chicago & MLA Format

This is a breakdown of the differences between 4 citation styles used at Trine that is meant to be used for quick reference. For more detailed information, consult one of the official resources listed below. Always be sure to follow your professors' instructions.

	<b>AMA</b>	<b>APA</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>MLA</b>
<b>Which subjects generally use this format?</b>	Health Sciences	Psychology, Sociology, Education	Technical Writing, Engineering, History, Government	Literature, English Composition
<b>Where can I find citation and style guidelines?</b>	<i>The AMA Manual of Style</i> (10 <sup>th</sup> edition)	<i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i> (6 <sup>th</sup> edition)	<i>The Chicago Manual of Style</i> (16 <sup>th</sup> edition)	<i>The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</i> (7 <sup>th</sup> edition)
<b>What should my margins be?</b>	1 inch	1 inch	1 inch	1 inch
<b>Where do I put my title?</b>	Title page, centered toward the top of the page	Title page, centered toward the middle of the page AND top of the first full page of the paper	Title page, centered toward the top of the page	Centered on the line after the heading on the first page
<b>Where do I put my identifying information?</b>	Names, Affiliations and E-mail addresses centered on title page toward the middle or bottom	Name, affiliation and contact info on title page, centered toward the bottom of the page	Name on the title page Course name, instructor, and date submitted at the bottom of the title page	Heading with Name, Professor's name, Class and date in month day year format (academic papers)

<b>Do I need an abstract?</b>	Abstract on title page. Keywords on title page	Abstract	No abstract	No abstract
<b>What goes in the header and footer?</b>	No header/footer guidelines; refer to publisher or professor's guidelines	Paper title (up to 50 characters) in all capital letters to the left; page number to the right(Different for title page)	Page number in the header on the right	Last name and page number in the header on the right
<b>What should the section headings in my paper look like?</b>	No specific rules for headings	Specific rules for first 5 levels of headings (See APA Style Guide)	No specific rules for headings	No specific rules for headings
<b>Where do my tables, graphs and images go?</b>	Tables and figures integrated into the body of the paper.	Tables and figures integrated or in appendix.	Tables and figures integrated into the body of the paper.	Tables and figures integrated into the body of the paper.