Academic Documentation Styles

Academic writing is a highly conventialized form of writing both in terms of principles and documentation styles.

In terms of principles, you should be objective, open-minded and ethical. You should observe the scientific research and thinking methods. Academic writing aims to abide by universal principles of scientific methods. It aims to free you of possible outcomes of cultural conditioning and conditioned thinking. Research enables you to go beyond your own patterns of thinking.

In terms of styles, it aims to prevent all forms of plagiarism or obscurity. In time, certain associations have formulated some styles to provide a common language of academic discourse. They have formulated certain rules as to how document your sources in the text and at the end of the text. Some teachers or journals or institutions may require certain rules to follow but there are three major styles worldwide. MLA, APA and Chicago Manuel Style. Different disciplines or institutions may favor one over the others. It important to know who requires which style and above it, that there are different styles. In the links you will find information on MLA and APA Styles.