Generative AI Citation Quick Tips

How do I cite AI in my paper?

- Several of the common citation resources now provide guidance on citing information derived from Generative AI tools. This document will highlight the guidance from the Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological Association (APA).

What is the difference between MLA and APA?

- APA is used in research that is more time sensitive, and the date is given at the beginning of each citation, while MLA is less concerned with dates, and more with authors and titles. In APA, only the author's full last name and first initial(s) are included, and only the first letters of the title and subtitle are capitalized. The library has guides for using MLA and APA for books and articles as well. They are available at the library service desk or on the web at: https://academics.otc.edu/library/teaching/ and scroll to the Citation & Formatting section.

APA: How to Cite AI

- https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt
- APA recommends attributing authorship to AI, whereas MLA advises against it.
- Credit the AI tool as an author.
- Per the APA Guide: *Because "the results of a ChatGPT "chat" are not retrievable by other readers, and although non-retrievable data or quotations in APA Style papers are usually cited as personal communications, with ChatGPT-generated text there is no person communicating. Quoting ChatGPT's text from a chat session is, therefore, more like sharing an algorithm's output; thus, credit the author of the algorithm with a reference list entry and the corresponding in-text citation."*
- Per guidelines above, a chat with ChatGPT should not be cited as PERSONAL COMMUNICATION either.

APA Example:

When prompted with "Is the left brain right brain divide real or a metaphor?" the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that although the two brain hemispheres are somewhat specialized, "the notation that people can be characterized as 'left-brained' or 'right-brained' is considered to be an oversimplification and a popular myth" (OpenAI, 2023).

Reference
OpenAI. (2023). ChatGPT (Mar 14 version) [Large language model].
https://chat.openai.com/chat

Guidelines:

- FOR *RESEARCH METHODS*: "Describe how you used the tool in your Method section."
- FOR *LITERATURE REVIEWS or ESSAYS*: "Describe how you used the tool in your introduction. In your text, provide the prompt you used and then any portion of the relevant text that was generated in response."
- FOR *REFERENCE*: "Credit the author of the algorithm with a reference list entry and the corresponding in-text citation"

Need some help with AI Citations? Email us libraryref@otc.edu

MLA: Citing Generative AI

- https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/
- Do not credit the AI tool as an author
- Per the MLA guide: *"We do not recommend treating the AI tool as an author. This recommendation follows the policies developed by various publishers, including the MLA's journal PMLA."* Some examples included in the guide are:
  - Example 1: Paraphrasing Text
  - Example 2: Quoting Text
  - Example 3: Citing Creative Visual Works
  - Example 4: Quoting Creative Textual Works
  - Example 5: Citing Secondary Sources Used by an AI Tool

MLA Example 1: Paraphrasing Text

Paraphrased in Your Prose

While the green light in The Great Gatsby might be said to chiefly symbolize four main things: optimism, the unattainability of the American dream, greed, and covetousness ("Describe the symbolism"), arguably the most important—the one that ties all four themes together—is greed.

Works-Cited-List Entry

"Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald" prompt. ChatGPT, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

Guidelines:

- Cite a generative AI tool whenever you paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into your own work any content (whether text, image, data, or other) that was created by it.
- Acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words) in a note, your text, or another suitable location, take care to vet the secondary sources it cites.

Need some help with AI Citations? Email us libraryref@otc.edu