

Why AI Citation Matters

Citing AI tools keeps your work honest and transparent. If AI contributes ideas, wording, or content to your assignment, you must show where that help came from. Major style guides (MLA, APA, and Chicago) expect students to clearly identify AI-generated content, so readers understand how the work was created.

When Do You Need to Cite AI?

You need to **cite an AI tool** when you:

- Quote, paraphrase, or summarize AI-generated text
- Use AI-generated images, code, or multimedia
- Analyze or respond directly to AI output

How to Cite AI Tools: Examples by Style

MLA Style (9th edition) <https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai-updated-revised/>

Works Cited Entry

Format:

“Description of what was generated” prompt. *AI Tool*, version, Publisher, Date content was generated, URL.

Example:

“Explain the causes of the Cold War” prompt. *ChatGPT*, GPT4, Open AI, 15 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/share/612>

InText Citation

Use the **first few words of the prompt**.

Example:

Political alliances played a central role in Cold War tensions (“Explain the causes”).

APA Style (7th edition) apastyle.apa.org

Format:

Name/Author of the Chatbot/Model. (Year of the version you used). Title the mode (version of the model) [Type of model. URL

OpenAI. (2026, March 15). *Response to the prompt "Explain the causes of the Cold War"* [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/share/541>

InText Citation

Use the Chatbot name and year.

Example:

(OpenAI, 2026)

Chicago Style <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html>

Format:

Text generated by AI Tool, Date, *Tool Creator/Owner*, URL.

Footnote Example (with prompt in the text):

1. Text generated by ChatGPT, response to "Explain the causes of the Cold War," March 15, 2026, *Open AI*, <https://chat.openai.com/share/521>.