



How to Cite AI

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to emerge, the need for standardized citation practices is becoming increasingly recognized. AI draws from many diverse disciplines, making citation conventions complex and dynamic. Because of this, the preferred methods are still developing, and we must acknowledge that this will be a continuous, evolving process. With that being said, here are some tips for the current guidelines!

General Guidelines

- Always confirm with your professor if AI usage is allowed for your assignment.
- Always verify information and sources of AI-generated content.
- Content from AI tools cannot be retrieved or linked in your citation, so it should be cited as personal communication.

Speaking and Writing Center [1]: This will often be on the syllabus or in the assignment guidelines, but if in doubt, ask the professor directly.

Common Issues with Using AI as a Source

- **Incomplete Citations:** AI-generated citations may sometimes lack crucial information or contain errors, such as missing/incorrect authors' names or publication dates.
- **Misattribution of Sources:** AI may inadvertently attribute ideas or phrases to incorrect authors or works. This can occur due to algorithmic errors or insufficient training data.
- **Over-reliance on Unverified Sources:** AI algorithms might pull information from untrustworthy or biased sources, leading to inaccuracies or misinformation in citations.
- **Lack of Contextual Understanding:** AI may struggle to understand the context or significance of a citation within a particular field or research domain. This can result in citations that are irrelevant or misleading.
- **Incorrect or Inconsistent Citation Styles:** AI-generated content may exhibit inconsistencies in citation styles, such as variations in formatting or citation order. This can create confusion for readers and make it difficult to follow proper citation conventions.

Speaking and Writing Center [2]: For example, an AI might cite a source without providing the title or the publication venue, making it challenging for readers to locate the original work.

Speaking and Writing Center [3]: A common misattribution that AI makes is to attribute a scholarly article to the wrong author, or even fabricating an author to attribute an article to. For example, Sports Illustrated had a series of articles with AI input that were attributed to authors who were not real.

Speaking and Writing Center [4]: For example, an AI-generated research paper might cite a blog post or a social media comment as a legitimate source, without verifying its credibility.

Speaking and Writing Center [5]: For example, an AI-generated summary might include citations to unrelated studies or outdated research. It can also fall short of providing enough information for a complete summary, even if the information it does provide is accurate.

Speaking and Writing Center [6]: For example, an AI might use different citation formats within the same document, such as MLA, APA, or Chicago style. Or, it might not create a wholly correct citation in the preferred style.



How to Cite AI using APA

- AI-generated content will require an in-text citation, but will not appear in your references.
- Parenthetical citations will come after a direct quote is used, even if it is in the middle of a sentence. If the quote is paraphrased, the citation will come at the end of the sentence.
 - The CRUC “is the best place to find something to eat on UMW” (OpenAI, 2023) if you are a student.
 - The CRUC is referred to by many as the best place to go if you’re looking for somewhere to eat on UMW (OpenAI, 2023).
- Narrative citations that introduce an AI tool will be followed by the year in parentheses.
 - According to Open AI (2023), the CRUC “is the best place to find something to eat on UMW.”

How to Cite AI using Chicago Notes-Bibliography

- Notes-Bibliography uses footnotes instead of traditional in-text citations. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page on which the cited material appears.
- **Footnote:**
 - 1. Text generated by ChatGPT, OpenAI, March 7, 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>.
- **Shortened Note:**
 - 1. ChatGPT.
- You don’t add the AI you cited to the bibliography, as due to the nature of AI even using the same prompt would not produce the exact same response, so readers could not access or duplicate the source.

How to Cite AI using Chicago Author-Date

- (ChatGPT, March 7, 2023)

Speaking and Writing Center [7]: Each element is separated by a comma. OpenAI, in this instance, stands in for the author, and then the year is placed following.

Speaking and Writing Center [8]: Each element is separated by a comma. OpenAI, in this instance, stands in for the author, and then the year is placed following.

Speaking and Writing Center [9]: For most types of writing, you can just acknowledge that you got the information from AI in text (ex. “the following recipe for pizza dough was generated by ChatGPT.”) but in some types of writing, such as research papers, you still may need a formal citation.

Speaking and Writing Center [10]: Notes should be numbered with Arabic numerals in order of occurrence throughout the text.

Within the text, notes should be superscripted (placed just above the text that it is referencing) and placed at the end of the sentence to which it refers. Superscripts should always be placed after punctuation marks. Notes themselves should be single-spaced, indented by half an inch, and begin with a normal-text Arabic numeral followed by a period. Unlike a bibliographic citation, which uses a hanging indent, footnotes only use the standard first-line indent.

Speaking and Writing Center [11]: ChatGPT stands in as the author of the text with OpenAI, the company that developed the AI tool, as the publisher/sponsor.

Speaking and Writing Center [12]: The date is inserted in month (written out fully) day, year format.

Speaking and Writing Center [13]: The URL is meant to show where the AI tool can be found, but since you can’t provide a link directly to the AI output, the URL is not essential.

Speaking and Writing Center [14]: The first time you cite a source, you should use the full footnote citation. If you cite the same source again in your paper, you may use the shortened footnote.

Speaking and Writing Center [15]: This is the format that you would use if citing AI parenthetically in Chicago. This is used less often than Notes-Bibliography. Any information that is not provided in the text will be put in the parentheses.

Speaking and Writing Center [16]: ChatGPT in this case stands in as the “author,” and the date is written out as month (fully written out) day, year.



How to Cite AI using MLA

Example 1: Paraphrasing Text

"Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald"

The green light in *The Great Gatsby* is a powerful symbol in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel. It is located at the end of Daisy Buchanan's dock and is visible from Jay Gatsby's mansion across the Long Island Sound. Here are some of the key interpretations of its symbolism:

1. **The American Dream:** The green light represents Gatsby's aspiration for success and his idealized vision of the American Dream. Gatsby associates the light with his hope for a future with Daisy, who embodies his dreams of wealth, status, and happiness. The light symbolizes Gatsby's pursuit of an elusive and ultimately unattainable goal.
2. **Daisy Buchanan:** The light is closely linked to Daisy, Gatsby's former lover and the object of his obsession. To Gatsby, Daisy is the epitome of perfection and the ultimate prize, making the green light a symbol of his desire to rekindle their past romance and achieve his ideal vision of life with her.
3. **The Illusion of the American Dream:** As the novel progresses, it becomes clear that the green light also symbolizes the broader disillusionment with the American Dream. Gatsby's relentless chase after the light, and what it represents, reveals the emptiness and corruption underlying the pursuit of material success and social status.
4. **Hope and Futility:** The green light can be seen as a beacon of hope, but it also underscores

–in-text citation

- 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 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.

Speaking and Writing Center [17]: First words of the prompt you input.

Speaking and Writing Center [18]: The full prompt that you input. Notice that the text of the prompt is in quotes and the word prompt appears at the end out, outside of quotation marks.

Speaking and Writing Center [19]: Version of the AI you are currently using. This can often be found on the AI input menu itself. For example, in ChatGPT, it can be found on the top left of the screen on which you input your prompt.

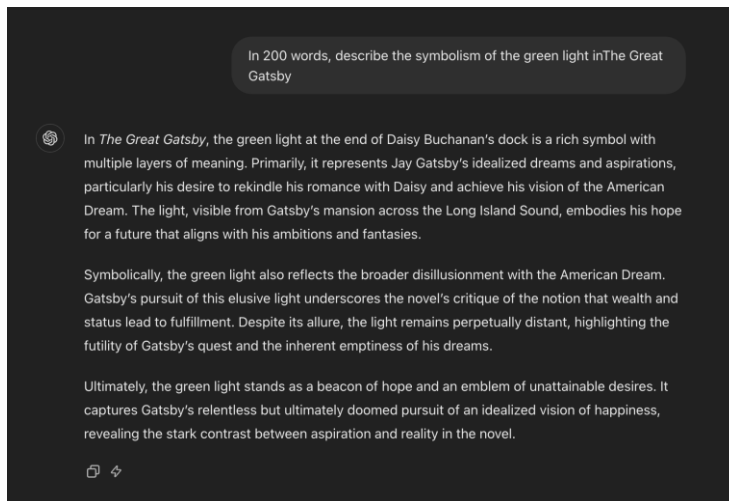
Speaking and Writing Center [20]: This is the company that made the AI tool, which stands in here for the publisher. The publisher would appear in any MLA citation in that location, though each AI tool has its own publisher so it will not always be OpenAI.

Speaking and Writing Center [21]: Date in day month year format, with the month abbreviated if it is five letters or longer.

Speaking and Writing Center [22]: URL for the AI site.



Example 2: Quoting Text



- in-text citation

- When asked to describe the symbolism of the green light in *The Great Gatsby*, *ChatGPT* provided a summary about optimism, the unattainability of the American dream, greed, and covetousness. It claims that the green light “represents Jay Gatsby’s idealized dreams and aspirations” (“In 200 words”). This is supported by the novel’s text itself, because the green light is located across the bay from Gatsby’s house, representing his aspirations may be far from possibility.

Speaking and Writing Center [23]: Clearly stated that ChatGPT was used to generate information

Speaking and Writing Center [24]: Abbreviated first few words of the prompt you input (full prompt would be in the works cited entry as seen below).

- works cited entry

- “In 200 words, describe the symbolism of the green light in *The Great Gatsby*” follow-up prompt to list sources. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 9 Mar. 2023, [Chat.openai.com/chat](https://chat.openai.com/chat).

Speaking and Writing Center [25]: The original prompt which you input is in quotes in full.

Speaking and Writing Center [26]: Secondary prompt; note that there is no punctuation between the primary prompt in quotations and the secondary prompt with no formatting.

Speaking and Writing Center [27]: Notice that the name of the AI tool used is in italics.



Example 3: Citing Creative Visual works

AI images could be used in a paper or presentation to provide examples or serve any other purpose of a visual aid, any use of which would need to be cited. The example below could be used in a paper about different art styles, for example if you wanted to demonstrate what pointillism was without finding an actual human-produced example of the style.



Fig. 1. "Pointillist painting of a sheep in a sunny field of blue flowers" prompt, DALL-E, version 2, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, labs.openai.com/.

Speaking and Writing Center [28]: This would be used as the caption that would appear under the photo, as demonstrated here. You would also use this same citation style in the works cited page after removing the 'Fig. 1.' portion.

Speaking and Writing Center [29]: The full prompt, in quotes, that you input to get the image.

Speaking and Writing Center [30]: DALL-E is a different AI tool that produces images from text input.



Example 4: Quoting Creative Textual Works

If you use AI to create a creative text, the way you cite it will depend on if you assigned the work a title or not. If you have assigned it a title, you will put that in the “Title of Source” area. If it has no title, put the whole or beginning part of the prompt in that area instead.

- works cited entry with title
 - “The Sunflower” villanelle about a sunflower. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.
- works cited entry without title
 - “Upon the shore . . .” Shakespearean sonnet about seeing the ocean. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

Speaking and Writing Center [31]: This means that if you have given the AI the prompt to write something with the title you want to have, so that it generates a creative work based on that title. If ChatGPT gives it a title different from the one you assigned it, you would still cite it with the title you put into the prompt.

Speaking and Writing Center [32]: Title you gave for the project.

Speaking and Writing Center [33]: This is a summary of the actual prompt you put in-- genre of work and topic.

Speaking and Writing Center [34]: Name of AI used and Version

Speaking and Writing Center [35]: Organization that puts out the AI service. For ChatGPT, this is OpenAI, but it varies between AI tools; if you were using Claude, a different AI, it would be Anthropic. This information can usually be found on the AI's website, for example, for Claude it's under the FAQ section.

Speaking and Writing Center [36]: Date

Speaking and Writing Center [37]: Location (a general URL)

Speaking and Writing Center [38]: If the AI tool assigns a title to the creative text and you want to use it, you would insert it into the portion taken by the first line in quotes below.

Speaking and Writing [39]: This is the beginning of the first line of the output, not a title that you input into the prompt as in the above example.

Speaking and Writing Center [40]: As above, this is the summary of the prompt that you put in to get the creative output.

Speaking and Writing Center [41]: AI like Microsoft's Copilot, which UMW students have access to, have this feature when asked to cite their sources.

Example 5: Citing Secondary Sources Used by an AI Tool

This type of citation would be needed when an AI tool recommends or links to information from sources outside of the AI, such as what is pictured below.

The political unconscious is a concept created by Fredric Jameson to articulate the implicit political dimension of creative works¹. It was first proposed in his book “The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act” (1981)¹. The concept draws on and adapts Freud's notion of wish-fulfilment and Lévi-Strauss's notion of the savage mind (‘pensée sauvage’) to construct the hypothesis that artistic works can be seen as symbolic solutions to real but unconsciously felt social and cultural problems¹.

Would you like more information on this topic?

Learn more: [1. oxfordreference.com](https://www.oxfordreference.com) [2. degruyter.com](https://www.degruyter.com) [3. books.google.com](https://books.google.com)
[4. en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org) [5. oyc.yale.edu](https://oyc.yale.edu) — see less

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If you want to quote from a particular sentence in that response, go to the source it cites, and then, having made sure the information the AI provided is correct, cite that secondary source as if it were your original source, leaving out the AI portion as the AI was just a research tool. Make sure to check your professor's guidelines when using AI for research though, as some may have policies that allow AI use but ask you to describe how you used the AI or what prompts you gave it, even if you aren't using the AI as a source directly.

Speaking and Writing Center [42]: Similar to using Google or a library database as a research tool to find a source, you wouldn't cite the tool you used to search; you would cite the source from which you actually got the information.



How to Cite AI using CSE

- ChatGPT described an imaginary chipmunk called the Aurora Chipmunk, which “has a striking coat that shimmers in a gradient of colors—ranging from deep teal at the back to a soft lavender on the underbelly.” I wanted the AI to respond to a prompt where I asked it to “create a nonexistent chipmunk” (ChatGPT [OpenAI], response to question from author, 16 March 2024).

Speaking and Writing Center [43]: AI is a personal communication in CSE, so it is cited in-text but not in the References list. This is how you create an in-text citation for the content, which would follow the information, either quote or paraphrase, that you got from the AI.

Speaking and Writing Center [44]: Including the prompt, as you do here, which you used to get the content is a part of the citation in this style.

Speaking and Writing Center [45]: This is the AI tool used and the company that puts it out in brackets.

Speaking and Writing Center [46]: This is what the AI did that you got the quote or paraphrase from. This is what you would use for this space in any citations in this style.

Speaking and Writing Center [47]: This is the date in day month year format, with the month fully written out.

Speaking and Writing Center [48]: This full thing is the in-text citation, with the explanation of what you wanted the AI to do outside of the parentheses and the details such as the tool, maker, and date inside of parentheses.