

Can you use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in assignments?

“As a general principle, unless specifically permitted, students are expected to complete all coursework, formative and summative assessments independently without the use of AI tools or other forms of unauthorized assistance. Otherwise, the case should be handled in accordance with the University’s Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty if a student is found to have used AI tool in the assignment/assessment.”

Sources:

CUHK Library. (2024, December 27). *Using information responsibly for your assignments: AI in education*.

<https://libguides.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/c.php?g=917899&p=6975970>

The Independent Learning Centre, CUHK. (2024). *Citation and referencing*.

https://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/EN/ENResources/Writing_Citation.aspx



Guidelines and advice from American Psychological Association (APA)

The APA Style team suggests that although AI may help students understand papers, students should not rely on the AI’s ostensible interpretation of the papers. AI tools lack the ability to accurately interpret papers. Before citing a work, students should read its original source to gain a full understanding. Authors using ChatGPT or similar AI tools for research should consider making the scrutiny of the primary sources a standard process. If the sources are real, accurate, and relevant, it may be better to read those original sources to learn from that research and paraphrase or quote from those articles, as applicable, than to use the model’s interpretation of them.

When you are thinking about integrating generative AI tools in your research, it is important to use APA Style’s AI citation guidance together with your institution, organisation, or journal’s policies for how and when to use AI in your situation. For those publishing their work, the prospective journals will likely have a policy in place covering the ethics of using AI in different situations. For example, APA Journals AI policies require authors to explicitly state how and to what extent they used AI.

Quoting ChatGPT’s text from a chat session is 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.

If you are unsure of the algorithm reference details, try to ask the AI platform for its author, date, title, and source and then apply the APA style formatting. Regarding AI-generated images, details need to be provided in figure captions.

In your text, provide the prompt you used and then any portion of the relevant text that was generated in response. You may also put the full text of long responses from ChatGPT in an appendix of your paper or in online supplemental materials, so readers have access to the exact text that was generated.

In scholarly materials including manuscripts for APA publications, the use of a generative artificial intelligence (AI) model must be disclosed in the methods section and cited. AI cannot be named as an author on an APA scholarly publication because AI cannot consent to meeting the standards of authorship. When AI is cited in an APA scholarly publication, the author must employ the software citation template, which includes specifying in the methods section how, when, and to what extent AI was used. Authors in APA publications are required to upload the full output of the AI as supplemental materials.

If you need to include an image generated using an AI tool, add the image in the form of a figure. The caption should include the prompt you used to create the image. Figures should be numbered in the order in which they are mentioned in your paper. You do not need to provide an end-text reference for an image you produced with an AI tool.

If the image generated using an AI tool comes from a published source, you need to include attribution in the note and provide an end-text reference.

In-text citation example – prompt and relevant text only:

When prompted with “Is the left brain right brain divide real or a metaphor?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that although “certain functions do tend to be more active in one hemisphere than the other, the left-brain/right-brain divide is largely a metaphor rather than a literal separation of thinking styles.” (OpenAI, 2025).

In-text citation example – prompt and relevant text with an appendix:

When given a follow-up prompt of “What is a more accurate representation?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that “the brain works as an integrated network rather than in isolated halves” and “the brain is organized into large-scale networks that span both hemispheres and interact dynamically depending on the task.” (OpenAI, 2025; see Appendix A for the full transcript).

In-text narrative citation: OpenAI (2025)

Reference list entry:

OpenAI. (2025). *ChatGPT* (Aug 7 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

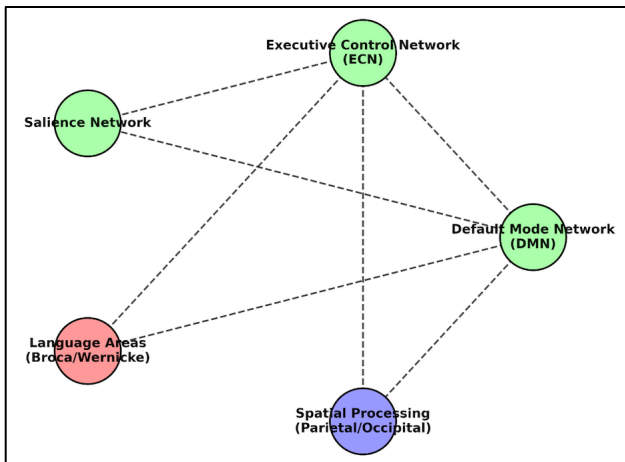
** The format for the version number in ChatGPT references includes the date because that is how OpenAI is labelling the versions.*

*** In the case of a reference for ChatGPT, provide the descriptor “Large language model” in square brackets because OpenAI describes ChatGPT-5 as a “large multimodal model”. Other versions and software or models from other companies may need different descriptions, based on how the publishers describe the model.*

In-text citation example – prompt and the AI-generated image you created with an AI tool:

Figure 1

Modern View: Brain Networks Working Together



Note. Image created using DALL-E as part of ChatGPT (Open AI, 2025). The image was generated in response to this prompt: “Create a simple diagram of how the brain’s major networks interact.”

Reference list entry:

Do not include one.

In-text citation example – prompt and the AI-generated image from a published source:

Figure 2

Robots Masquerading as Journalists



Note. Robots attempting to produce articles. From: *Gen AI and journalism*, by Attard et al., 2023, https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/GEN%20AI%20and%20Journalism_web%20version.pdf

Reference list entry:

Attard, M., Davis, M., & Main, L. (2023). *Gen AI and journalism*. Centre for Media Transition, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/GEN%20AI%20and%20Journalism_web%20version.pdf

***The figure number (e.g., Figure 1) appears above the figure title and image in bold font. Number figures in the order in which they are mentioned in the paper. The figure title appears one double-spaced line below the figure number and should be capitalised in italic title case. The word “Note” is in italics.

Sources:

American Psychological Association. (2021, December). *Figure setup*. <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/tables-figures/figures>

American Psychological Association. (2024, February 23). *How to cite ChatGPT*. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

American Psychological Association. (2024, July). *APA publishing policies*. <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/resources/publishing-policies>

American Psychological Association. (2025, March). *Tips for teaching writing in the age of AI*. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/teaching-writing-artificial-intelligence>

APA Style, Official. (2025, April 24). *Beyond peer-reviewed materials— Tracking down new and unusual reference types*. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYwR01z1Wv8>

The University of Western Australia. (2025, July 17). *Referencing style - APA 7th: Generative artificial intelligence (AI)*. https://guides.library.uwa.edu.au/apa/Gen_AI

How do you generate and cite a shareable link in ChatGPT?

You can generate a shareable link to a ChatGPT conversation, which can be included in your list of references. A shareable link is a snapshot of that entire conversation up to the point it is being shared. This means if there are many prompts/responses in the conversation, all of them will be included. You should include the prompt you used in your text to provide your reader with additional context.

In-text citation example – prompt and relevant text:

When prompted with “What are the themes in Jane Eyre?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that Jane Eyre “is rich with themes that explore morality, gender, class, love, and independence” (OpenAI, 2025).

In-text narrative citation: OpenAI (2025)

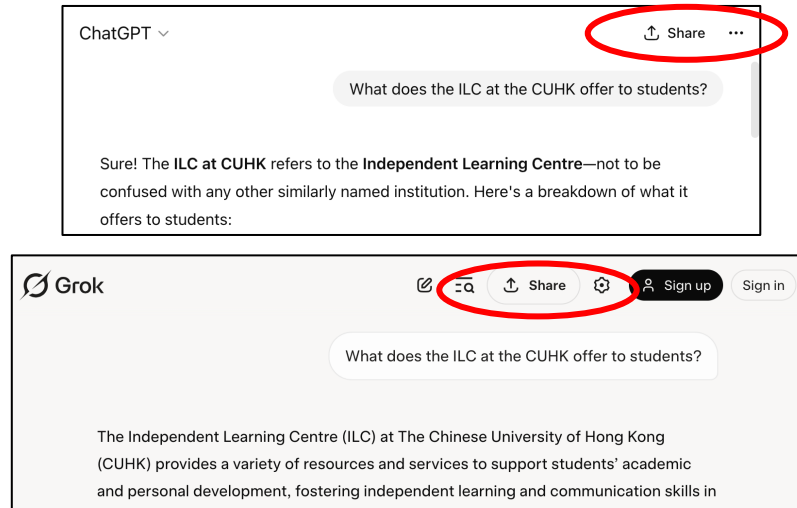
Reference list entry with a shareable link:

OpenAI. (2025, August 13). *ChatGPT* (Aug 7, 2025 version) [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com/share/68a0ea55-66a8-8005-8635-95e5b62bfabc>

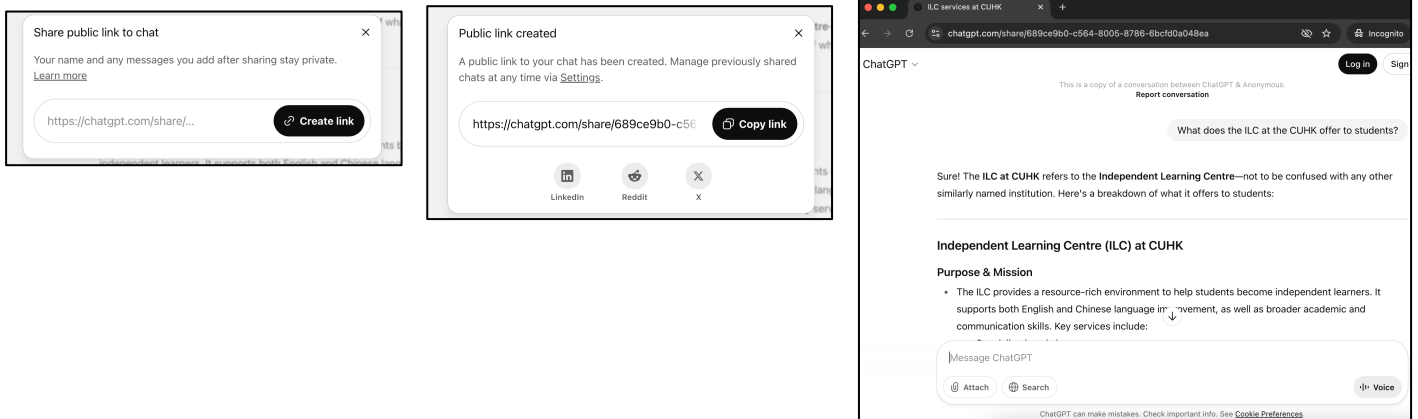
Source:

University of Portsmouth. (2024). *APA 7*. <https://library.port.ac.uk/ref/page840.html>

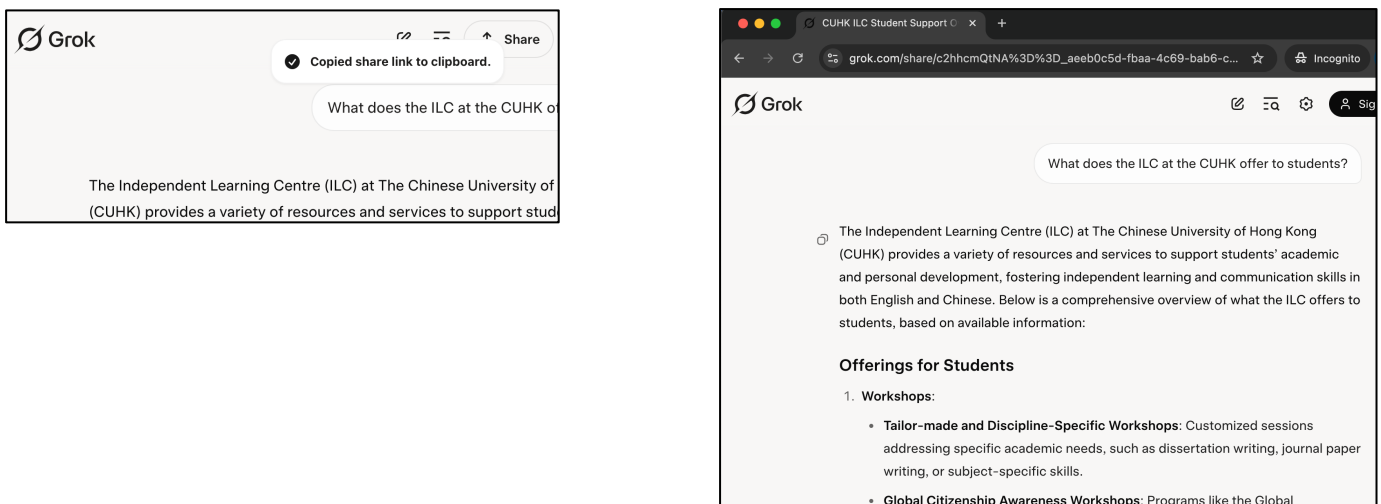
Here is a demonstration of how to create a shareable link in ChatGPT 5 and Grok 3. After receiving the response to a prompt from ChatGPT and Grok 3, click on the “Share” icon on the top right corner.



ChatGPT 5: Click “Create link”. A public link is then created and can be used for sharing.



Grok 3: The link has already been copied to the clipboard and can be used for sharing.



In-text citation:

When prompted with “What does the ILC at the CUHK offer to students?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that the ILC “provides a resource-rich environment to help students become independent learners. It supports both English and Chinese language improvement, as well as broader academic and communication skills.” (OpenAI, 2025).

When prompted with “What does the ILC at the CUHK offer to students?” the Grok-generated text indicated that the ILC “provides a variety of resources and services to support students’ academic and personal development, fostering independent learning and communication skills in both English and Chinese.” (xAI, 2025)

Reference list entry:

OpenAI. (2025, August 13). *ChatGPT* (Aug 7, 2025 version) [Large language model].

<https://chatgpt.com/share/689ce9b0-c564-8005-8786-6bcfd0a048ea>

xAI. (2025, August 13). *Grok* (Feb 17, 2025 version) [Large language model].

https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtNA%3D%3D_aeeb0c5d-fbaa-4c69-bab6-c4971be4e000

Caveats – AI and Authorship

Several publishers have offered guidance on how AI tools should be considered for publications.

- **Cambridge University Press** states that AI must be declared and clearly explained, and does not meet the requirements for authorship in terms of accountability.
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/authors/publishing-ethics/research-publishing-ethics-guidelines-for-journals/authorship-and-contributorship#ai-contributions-to-research-content>
- **Oxford University Press** (OUP) states that AI does not qualify as an author and should not be used to undertake primary authorial responsibilities. Authors must receive written permission from OUP to deliver AI-generated content as part of their submission and are obliged to replace AI-generated content with human generated content should OUP deem that appropriate.
<https://academic.oup.com/pages/for-authors/books/author-use-of-artificial-intelligence>
- **Taylor & Francis** states that AI tools cannot be listed as an author. Authors must clearly acknowledge within the article or book any use of Generative AI tools through a statement which includes: the full name of the tool used (with version number), how it was used, and the reason for use. Book authors must disclose their intent to employ Generative AI tools at the earliest possible stage to their editorial contacts for approval.
https://taylorandfrancis.com/our-policies/ai-policy/?_ga=2.188053224.1378551129.1721227095-1068550870.1721227095
- **Nature and other Springer Journals** advise that Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT will not be accepted as credited authors on research papers. However, researchers using LLM tools should document their use in the methods or acknowledgement section. Generative AI images are not permitted for publication.
<https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/ai#ai-authorship>
- **Science** has created an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy which states: “AI-assisted technologies [such as large language models (LLMs), chatbots, and image creators] do not meet the Science journals’ criteria for authorship and therefore may not be listed as authors or co-authors, nor may sources cited in Science journal content be authored

or co-authored by AI tools. Authors who use AI-assisted technologies as components of their research study or as aids in the writing or presentation of the manuscript should note this in the cover letter and in the acknowledgments section of the manuscript... AI-generated images and other multimedia are not permitted in the Science journals without explicit permission from the editors.”

<https://www.science.org/content/page/science-journals-editorial-policies>

Caveats – Accuracy and Reliability

In most cases, AI writing tools should not be used as an academic source of information. If used, it is always best to cite the original sources the tool lists as its citations, especially because AI tools often generate false citations (also known as "hallucinations").

- Where does the AI tool get its information from?
- Can you identify the authors of the works the AI tool is citing or pulling paragraphs from?
- Who or what materials are not cited?
- Do the citations listed exist? Are they accurate?
- Is the AI tool's output paraphrasing or using entire sections of text that belong to someone else?
- Can the information provided by the AI tool be verified?
- Has the information the AI tool used been peer-reviewed?

Source:

New York University. (2025, August 13). *Citation style guide*. <https://guides.nyu.edu/c.php?g=276562&p=9693224>

Caveats – Potential for Bias Based on Prompt

ChatGPT takes prompts using natural language and the responses tend to be less focused on identifying specific resources and more on summarizing information. For this reason, special attention should be paid to the wording used in the prompt, as it could bias the type of reply obtained.

Source:

University of Waterloo. (2025, May 22). *ChatGPT and generative artificial intelligence (AI): Potential for bias based on prompt*. https://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/chatgpt_generative_ai/chatgptbias