

# How to reference your assignment using APA ChatGPT



Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT, can be used as a tool to assist and inform the initial development of your writing but it is not a replacement for your own critical thinking and analysis. Your final assignment must be your own work. You should never just copy from an AI generator in whole or in part, and you should clearly indicate where AI-generated material has been used.

**Content generated by AI software is an evolving field, and APA's official advice is still being developed and debated. Please check before submitting your work to see if the advice here has altered.**

Currently, information generated by ChatGPT is non-recoverable. This means that the information cannot be accessed again by the reader/marker of your assignment. It is always better to use recoverable sources in your work.

APA now advises that ChatGPT should be referenced in the same way as an algorithm and should be included in the reference list using the format below:

## Reference

**Author. (Year of the version used.). *Title* (Version number) [Large language model]. URL**  
(The version number/date can be found at the bottom of the ChatGPT screen.)

### Example:

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

## In-text Citation

**You should include the prompt you used in your text to provide your reader with additional context.**

### 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).

**APA also suggests including the full ChatGPT transcript as an Appendix to your assignment. Please check with your lecturer to see if they wish you to do this.**

ChatGPT was prompted to "determine three prominent themes in Emily Dickinson's poetry", and identified "love, death and religion" as the most touched on themes of her work (OpenAI, 2023; see Appendix A for the full transcript).

## Do not use AI to suggest references to read/cite

Please be aware that ChatGPT and other AI services currently produce incorrect, made-up references that cannot be sourced. Whilst some individual parts of an AI-generated reference may be accurate (such as the journal name, article or book title or an author) the whole reference does not usually exist so cannot be found.

## Further help

Please ask in the College library for help with referencing. See additional handouts for how to reference books, journal articles, websites, social media and a sample reference list. The University of Portsmouth Library website <https://library.port.ac.uk/w165> has guidance on how to reference books and other materials in your research. Select APA 7th edition.