

## How to Cite AI-Generated Ideas (Information accurate as of January 9, 2026.)

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Disclaimer: If your syllabus or instructor said you may not use material from generative AI (artificial intelligence) programs, such as ChatGPT, don't.

Why should you specify whether writing or an image came from an AI generator?

- Transparency: Be open and clear about where your ideas and content are coming from.
- Avoiding plagiarism: Saying you wrote something on your own when you used an AI generator is a kind of plagiarism, which is against the TTU Code of Student Conduct.

### Citation Styles

**APA:** The technology company serves as the author, and the software serves as the title. Many AI chat tools have a feature enabling users to share the content of a specific chat through a URL, so include that URL as part of the reference. (Accessed January 8, 2026:

<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references>)

Parenthetical In-Text Example: (OpenAI, 2026)

Reference Example:

OpenAI. (2026, May 1). *Complete sentence structure* [Generative AI chat]. ChatGPT GPT-5.2. <https://chatgpt.com/share/69603274-2cf4-8011-848a-93d>

**MLA:** MLA does not consider AI tools as authors; therefore, the prompt or a description of what was generated is the first part of the citation. The reference is built from prompt, AI tool, version of the tool, company, date it was generated, and, if available, a stable URL to the chat history. (Accessed 9 January 2026: <https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai-updated-revised/>)

Parenthetical In-Text Example: (“Create a workout schedule”)

Reference Content Example:

“Create a workout schedule for someone who wants to get better at soccer”  
prompt. Gemini, 3, Google, 9 January 2006, [gemini.google.com/share/as](https://gemini.google.com/share/as).

**Chicago:** Chicago recommends acknowledging when something in the text was generated by AI (e.g., “The following summary was generated by Perplexity”). If your instructor wants it as a footnote or endnote, include the basic information. (Accessed May 22, 2025:

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

Footnote/endnote: 1. Text generated by Perplexity, May 4, 2025,  
<https://www.perplexity.ai/>.

Bibliography: Do not include unless it has a publicly available link to the original chat.