APA 7th in Minutes: Generative AI Text

Introduction

This is Humber Libraries' APA in Minutes.

This video will show you the basics on how to cite the text output from a generative AI tool in APA format, so it will end up looking like this:

> OpenAI. (September 3, 2024). *AI bias mitigation methods*. ChatGPT.
> https://chatgpt.com/share/fdec7366-3ee1-4381-98ba-7265c6f33069

Or this:

> Microsoft. (2023). *Copilot for Microsoft 365* [Large multimodal model]. Retrieved
> May 24, 2024, from https://copilot.microsoft.com/

We will be giving two examples using two popular generative AI tools: ChatGPT and Copilot.

Please note that the most recent APA style guide – the 7th edition – does not include information on citing generative AI tools.

However, the official APA Style Blog has posted best practice guidelines.

Their approach is to treat AI tools which provide a stable link to prompts and responses as a webpage.

If the AI tool does not provide a stable link to the conversation, they recommend citing the tool as software. This distinction is the basis for the recommendations made in this video.

Before we begin building the citation, it is worth mentioning that your instructor may have specific, additional, or alternative requirements around the use of generative AI tools, so always consult your assignment or course outline before you begin.

Citing ChatGPT (or a Generative AI tool that provides a stable link)

In this example we will be citing the webpage for a saved conversation in ChatGPT. The URL for a conversation is created and accessed by clicking on the Share icon, "Create Link," then "Copy Link."

To cite the text output from a generative AI tool that provides a stable link for the prompt and response, you will need:

- The author of the AI tool, that is the software company that created it.
- The date the prompt and responses were created, if visible on the page.
- The title of the conversation that appears at the top of the webpage.
- The name of the website of the AI tool being used.
- The URL that links directly to the conversation.

In this example, the AI tool we'll be citing is ChatGPT. If you're citing a different tool that also provides a stable link to the prompts and responses, we recommend trying to follow these guidelines as closely as you can.

Citing ChatGPT: Building a Citation

We'll begin with the author of the AI tool, that is, the company that created it. In this example, ChatGPT was created by OpenAI.

After the name add a period.

The date the conversation was completed comes next, which in ChatGPT appears at the top of the conversation page.

Surround in parentheses and follow with a period.

The title of the conversation appears next, in italics. ChatGPT creates a title, based on the topic of conversation. Note that you can rename the conversation if it is one you started in your account.

Capitalize the first word and any proper nouns.

Follow with a period.

Next comes the name of the website that you are retrieving your conversation from, in this case ChatGPT.

Follow with a period.

Finally, comes the URL to the conversation.

This is our first example of an APA citation for a conversation generated by an AI tool:

OpenAI. (September 3, 2024). *AI bias mitigation methods*. ChatGPT. https://chatgpt.com/share/fdec7366-3ee1-4381-98ba-7265c6f33069

Citing Copilot (or a Generative AI tool that does not provide a stable link)

In this next section, we'll be using Copilot as an example of an AI tool that does not provide a stable link to prompts and responses.

Citing this type of tool requires a slightly modified list of items. You will need:

- The author of the AI tool, that is the software company that created it.
- The year the version of the software you used was released.
- The title or name of the tool that you used.
- The version of the software that was used.
- The type of model being used (for example, Large Language Model).
- The retrieval date, that is, the date you used the tool to generate the text being referred to.
- And the URL that links to the AI software tool as directly as possible.

Citing Copilot: Building a Citation

We'll begin with the author of the AI tool, which in this case is Microsoft, the company that created Copilot.

After the name add a period.

The year the version of the software was released comes next, in parentheses, followed by a period. If you cannot locate this date within the site, use "n.d.".

Now comes the title or name of the tool that was used, in italics.

In this example, the free version of Copilot is simply called Copilot. There is also a paid version called Copilot Pro. A college subscription that requires your institutional username and password is called Copilot for Microsoft 365.

Typically, the version number of a piece of software would come next in parentheses, but Copilot does not use version numbers.

Next, comes the type of generative AI model being used.

Copilot marketed by Microsoft as an AI companion; however, it is more accurate to describe it as a Large Multimodal Model as it can generate more than text.

Surround the model type in square brackets and follow with a period.

We recommend adding a retrieval date, as it may not be possible for someone else to retrieve the exact text that is being cited.

Add "retrieved", month, day, comma, year, comma, "from".

Lastly, add the URL that comes as close to the source as possible. As Copilot does not provide a stable link to prompts and responses, add the URL for the tool's homepage.

As the reader of your paper will not be able to access the specific chat that generated the text you are citing, we recommend including the prompts and responses that you are referencing as an appendix.

Citing Copilot: Copying Chat for an Appendix

In Copilot, there is a copy text icon in the response field of the chat. However, you will need to copy the prompt by highlighting it and using the copy command.

This is our second example of an APA citation for text generated by an AI tool:

> Microsoft. (2023). *Copilot for Microsoft 365* [Large multimodal model]. Retrieved May 24, 2024, from https://copilot.microsoft.com/

In-text Citation: Paraphrase

For an in-text citation at the end of a paraphrase, add the software company's name, a comma, and the year the version of the software was released.

Surround in parentheses and follow with a period.

In-Text Citation: Quotation

If citing a quotation from the generated text, be sure to also include the paragraph number. Add a comma after the date, then "para", followed by a period, and add the paragraph number. Finish in parentheses, then a period.

In-Text Citation: Appendix

If you were unable to obtain a URL that links to the AI chat and have opted to include the prompts and generated text as an appendix, mention it in your first in-text citation.

After the author, comma, and date, add a semicolon and call out the specific appendix with text such as "See Appendix A for the full transcript." Surround in parentheses.

For more on in-text citations, watch our video linked in the description.

Reference Page

Your reference list will be on its own page at the end of your paper and will contain the full citation information.

Make sure to put your citations in alphabetical order. Don't forget to double space, and indent after the first line.

For more information and support with APA:

- Book an appointment with the Writing Center;
- Consult the OWL at Purdue;
- Or refer to the APA manual available at Humber Libraries.