

How to Cite ChatGPT in MLA



What You Need to Know

Component	Rule
Author	Omit. AI is not the author
Title	Describe the prompt or use user-given title
AI Tool	List AI tool, version, date
Publisher	List company (e.g., OpenAI)
Date	Date of content generation
Location	General or shareable URL
In-text	Use shortened prompt or title in parentheses

When to Cite ChatGPT?

1

When you quote, paraphrase, or incorporate AI-generated content (text, image, data, code).

2

When you use AI tools for editing, summarizing, translating—acknowledge this in-text or in a note.

MLA Citation Format (Works Cited)

1

“Description of prompt or output.”

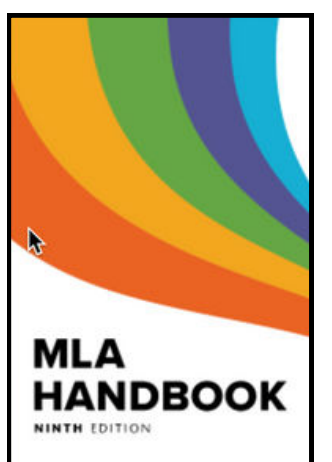
2

AI Tool, Version, Company, Date, URL.

3

4

5



Example: Paraphrased or Quoted Text

Prompt

Explain the role of fate in Macbeth in 100 words.

Citation

“Explain the role of fate in Macbeth in 100 words” prompt. ChatGPT, 4 June version, OpenAI, 20 June 2025, chat.openai.com/chat

Example: AI Generated Image

Prompt

Surrealist painting of a crow flying over a city at night

Citation

“Surrealist painting of a crow flying over a city at night” prompt. DALL-E, v3, OpenAI, 22 June 2025, labs.openai.com/chat

In-Text Citation Rules

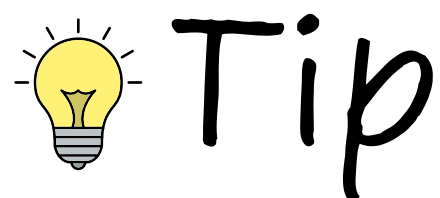
In MLA, cite the prompt title or a shortened version of it in parentheses.

AI tools do not count as authors.



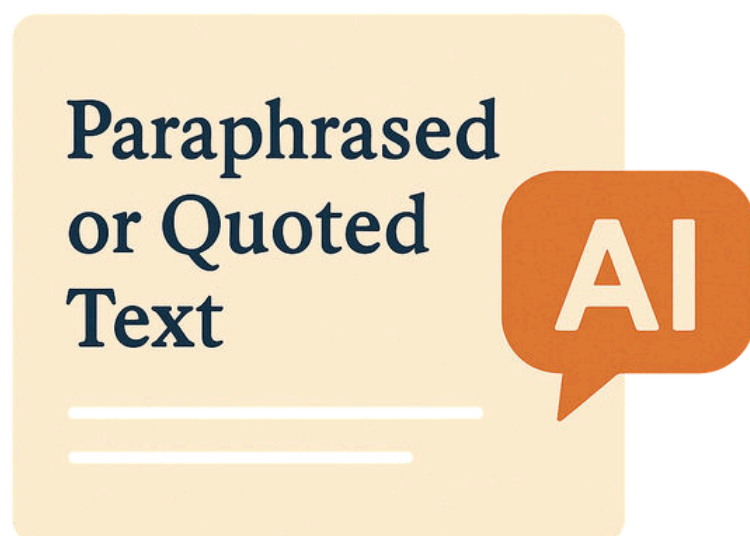
Examples

- ✓ Paraphrasing: → Fate drives Macbeth's decisions far more than free will ("Explain the role of fate").
- ✓ Quoting: → As one AI-generated response puts it, "fate wraps around Macbeth like an invisible thread" ("Explain the role of fate").
- ✓ Creative work: → The haiku *Autumn Fog* captures "the hush between seasons" (*Autumn Fog*).



Use quotation marks for long prompts or untitled works. Use italics if you gave it a title.

Paraphrased or Quoted Text



Prompt



Explain the role of fate in Macbeth in 100 words.

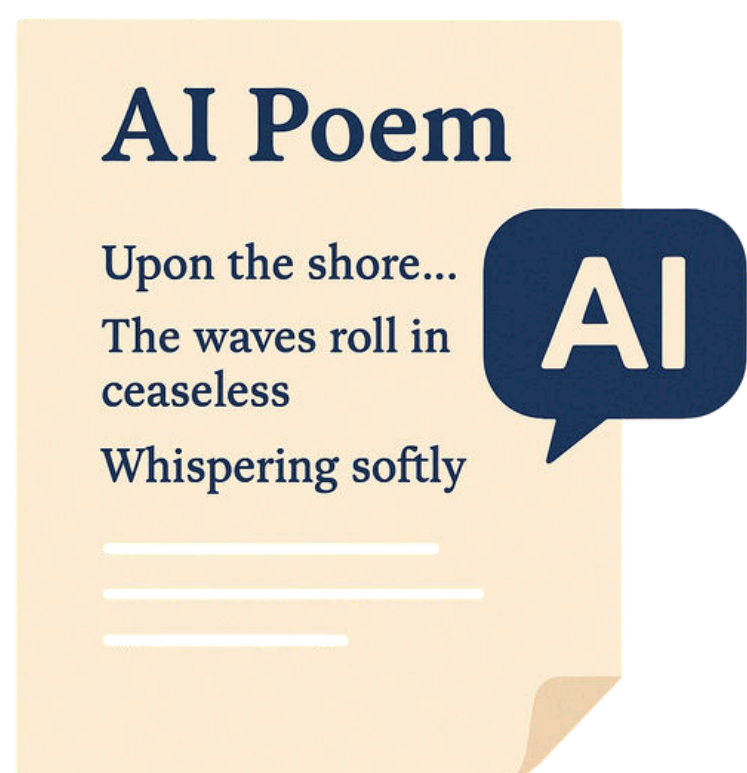


Citation



“Explain the role of fate in Macbeth in 100 words”
prompt. ChatGPT, 4 June version, OpenAI, 20 June
2025, chat.openai.com/chat

AI-Created Poem (Titled)



Prompt



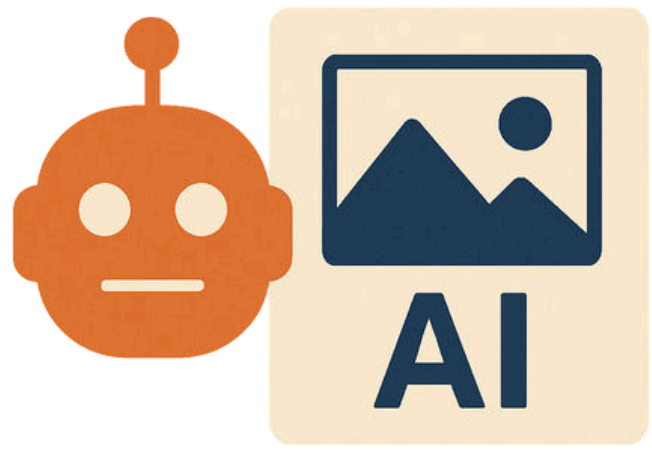
Write a haiku titled Autumn Fog



Citation



Autumn Fog haiku about seasonal change. ChatGPT, 4 June version, OpenAI, 21 June 2025, chat.openai.com/chat



AI Image

Prompt




Surrealist painting of a crow flying over a city at night.



Citation



“Surrealist painting of a crow flying over a city at night”
prompt. DALL·E, v3, OpenAI, 22 June 2025, labs.openai.com/

 **Tip** To caption your images in MLA, follow this formula:
Figure number, a description of the prompt, followed
by the AI tool, version, and date created.

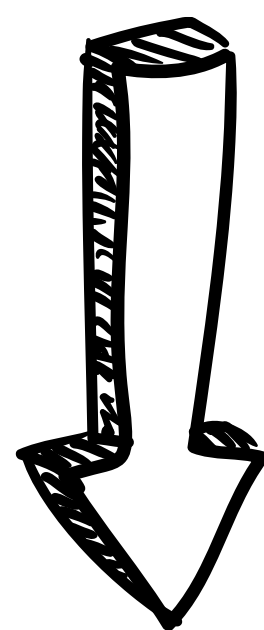




Fig. 1. "Surrealist painting of a crow flying over a city at night" prompt. DALL·E, v3, OpenAI, 22 June 2025, labs.openai.com/.