Citing generative AI in different citation styles

How should the use of an generative AI be referenced in the text, as well as in the bibliography or reference list ? Several bibliographic styles have developed recommendations on this subject. Here is how to proceed for the MLA, APA, Vancouver and Chicago styles.

MLA style, 9th ed. [1]	
Description	Any content created by a generative AI tool and paraphrased, quoted or integrated in your work, must be referenced by means of a note in the text or in another appropriate manner. The full reference appears in the bibliography. For the presentation of citations and bibliographic references, the MLA style does not use the name of the IAG tool for the *Author* element. Therefore, in-text citations and bibliographic references do not contain an *Author* element.
Example of citation / mention in the text	**Example of a paraphrase:** While the green light in *The Great Gatsby* might be said to chiefly symbolize four main things : optimism, the unattainability of the American dream, greed and covetousness ("Describe the symbolism"), arguably the most important – the one that ties all four themes together – is greed.
Example of bibliographic reference	"Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, https://chatgpt.com/share/xxxxxx.

APA style, 7th ed. [2]	
Description	The use of an GenAI in your work must be described in the "Methodology" section, in a comparable section or in the introduction. The prompt that was used and any relevant text provided in response must be indicated. The reference must be included in the bibliography. For the presentation of the *Author* element in citations and bibliographic references, the APA Style uses the name of the company that developed the tool.
Example of citation / mention in the text	**Example in the "Methodology" section:** When prompted "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 notion that people can be characterized as 'left-brained' or 'right-brained' is considered to be an oversimplification and a popular myth" (OpenAI, 2023).
Example of bibliographic reference	**The reference follows the model used to describe sowftwares:** OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Mar 14 version) [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com/chat

---

[1] Source : https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/
[2] Source : https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt

Vancouver / NLM style [3]

Description	The use of an AI tool for writing assistance should be mentioned in the acknowledgements section or the "Methodology" section (if used for data collection, analysis or the creation of figure, in particular).
Example of citation / mention in the text	No official recommandation.
Example of bibliographic reference	No official recommandation.

Chicago style [4]

Description	Text generated by an AI tool and inserted into your own work must be cited by placing the text in quotation marks and adding:
	    a) either a numbered footnote at the bottom of the page or at the end of the document (footnote format);
	    b) or a parenthesis containing the name of the tool and the date following the text (Author-date format).
	
	The prompt can also be indicated in the text or added to the note. If the text generated by AI has been edited, mention it in the text or at the end of the note.
	For the presentation of the *Author* element in citations and bibliographic references, the Chicago style uses the name of the AI tool. The name of the company developing the tool is used for the *Publisher* element. Indicate the AI reference in the bibliography **only if** the URL of the conversation is publicly accessible.

Example of citation / mention in the text	***Footnote* format, direct citation:** "The growing use of GenAI tools has significant environmental impacts, including high energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with model training and use, as well as increased pressure on natural resources." [1]. [1] Text generated by ChatGPT-4o, OpenAI, June 5 2025, https://chatgpt.com/share/xxxxxx. ***Author-date* format, direct citation:** "The growing use of GenAI tools has significant environmental impacts, including high energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with model training and use, as well as increased pressure on natural resources" (ChatGPT-4o, June 5 2025). **Prompt in footnote:** [1] ChatGPT-4o, response to "In one sentence, describe the environmental impacts of the increasing use of the GenAI tools", OpenAI, June 5 2025. **Mention in footnote of edition for style and content of the AI-generated text:** [1] ChatGPT-4o, response to "In one sentence, describe the environmental impacts of the increasing use of the GenAI tools", edited for style and content, OpenAI, June 5 juin 2025.
Example of bibliographic reference	**Bibliographic reference, if the link to the conversation is public:** ChatGPT-4o, response to the prompt "In one sentence, describe the environmental impacts of the increasing use of the GenAI tools", OpenAI, June 5 2025, https://chatgpt.com/share/xxxxxx.

[3] Source : https://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf
[4] Sources : https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html and https://boite-outils.bib.umontreal.ca/c.php?g=743753&p=5377614