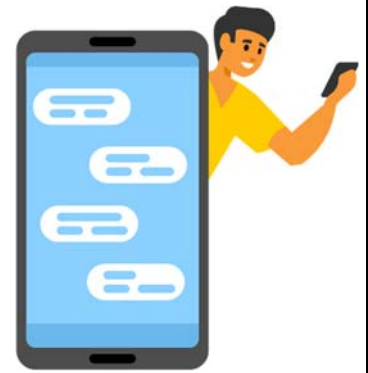


Name _____

Chatterbox Sources

Learn how to evaluate an AI conversation for academic use. Read the fictional chat transcript between a student and an AI tool. Then decide which parts of the conversation could be quoted in a research paper, how the AI should be cited in-text, and how to correctly format the reference or works cited entry.



Chat Transcript

Student: I'm writing a research essay about renewable energy. Can you explain the main advantages of solar power?

AI: Solar energy is renewable, clean, and increasingly cost-efficient. Once panels are installed, maintenance costs remain low, and sunlight is free. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) reports that solar panel costs dropped by more than 80% between 2010 and 2020.

Student: Can I include that in my paper?

AI: Yes, but make sure to verify the statistic with the IRENA source directly before citing it. You could phrase it like this: "According to data from the International Renewable Energy Agency, the cost of solar panels has fallen by over 80% since 2010."

Student: What about quoting you directly?

AI: You can quote my explanations if they help you summarize or clarify a concept, but you should acknowledge that they came from ChatGPT and include a date. For example: (OpenAI, personal communication, October 6, 2025).

Activity Questions

1. Identify Quotable Content - Which lines or statements from the AI could reasonably be quoted in a student's essay? Which parts should not be quoted directly? Explain why. Response -

2. Determine Citation Type - Based on the content above, explain how the AI should be cited in-text if a student includes a direct quote or paraphrase from this chat. Write both an APA and an MLA example. Response -
