

Tell Me Your Tech Secrets Answer Key

Part 1 - Model Transparency Statements

Model Example 1 (Research Paper Scenario): "I used ChatGPT to brainstorm possible subtopics for my research essay on renewable energy and to generate an outline that helped me organize my argument. After writing my draft, I asked ChatGPT to explain the difference between solar efficiency and capacity so I could rephrase that section more accurately. I verified all technical details by checking articles from the U.S. Department of Energy website. The final essay is fully my own writing, but AI assistance shaped my initial planning and clarity."

Model Example 2 (Literary Analysis Scenario): "For my essay on *Macbeth*, I used ChatGPT to clarify the historical context of Shakespeare's writing and to identify common interpretations of the theme of ambition. I did not use any sentences from the AI's responses in my paper. Instead, I used the tool as a discussion partner to refine my own thesis. My analysis and quotations come from the play and scholarly sources I located independently."

Model Example 3 (Argumentative Essay Scenario): "I asked ChatGPT to suggest counterarguments to my claim about social media and mental health so I could anticipate different perspectives. The tool helped me generate possible examples, but I verified each statistic by finding peer-reviewed studies. ChatGPT's role was limited to brainstorming and rewording complex sentences for flow. All citations in my paper refer to human-authored research."

Explanation: Each strong transparency statement demonstrates specificity and honesty. The student names what tasks the AI completed, what tasks remained their own, and how they verified or adapted the material. This communicates academic responsibility and helps instructors see that AI was used as a support tool rather than a content generator.

Teaching Note: Encourage students to avoid vague statements like "I used AI to help me." Instead, they should describe actions ("brainstormed ideas," "outlined sections," "clarified definitions"). This shows self-awareness about their writing process.

Part 2 - Analyze Its Purpose

Model Answer: A transparency statement **supplements** a citation rather than replaces it. It acknowledges how AI contributed to the *process* of writing, while citations give credit for *the content* or *intellectual material* used. If an AI tool helped phrase or structure an essay, that use should be disclosed, but if the writer quotes or paraphrases something the AI said, it must also be cited according to APA or MLA style. Transparency builds trust, while citation maintains intellectual credit. Together, they create a full picture of authorship and responsibility.

Explanation: Students should learn that transparency is about honesty, not ownership. Citing the AI handles attribution of text, while a transparency note explains workflow and ethical intent.

Teaching Note: Use this section to clarify common confusion: A student may not need to cite AI if they used it only as a brainstorming partner, but they should *still disclose* that use in a note or acknowledgment.