Name _____

Style Wars: Cite Club

Learn how three major citation styles (APA, MLA, and Chicago) handle AI sources differently. Read the short excerpts below from each manual explaining how to cite AI tools like ChatGPT. Then complete the comparison chart and write a brief reflection explaining which style you find clearest and why.

Excerpt 1: APA Style (7th Edition, 2024 Update)

The American Psychological Association treats AI-generated text as a **non-recoverable source**, similar to a personal communication. Because AI outputs cannot be retrieved or replicated by others, APA instructs writers to provide an **in-text citation only** unless the instructor requires a reference entry.
APA Example:
In-text citation: (OpenAI, personal communication, October 6, 2025)
Reference entry (optional):
OpenAI. (2025, October 6). *Response to a question about citing AI.* ChatGPT.
https://chat.openai.com/

Excerpt 2: MLA Style (9th Edition, 2024 Update)

The Modern Language Association recommends treating the **AI tool as the author** and including a description of the **prompt** in the title position. MLA emphasizes transparency about how the text was generated.
MLA Example:
OpenAI. *Response to "Explain how to cite AI as a source."* ChatGPT, 6 Oct. 2025,
https://chat.openai.com/.

Excerpt 3: Chicago Style (17th Edition, 2024 Update)

The Chicago Manual of Style approaches AI citation as a hybrid between a **software tool** and a **personal communication.** Authors should cite the AI tool in a note if it contributed language or analysis, and include a descriptive title. Chicago allows flexibility depending on whether the AI text is quoted, paraphrased, or merely used for background support.
Chicago Example (footnote):

1. OpenAI, *Response to a question about AI citations*, ChatGPT, October 6, 2025, https://chat.openai.com/.

Name _____

Comparison Chart

Feature	APA	MLA	Chicago
How AI is described			
Whether it uses a reference entry			
How the AI is treated (author, tool, or communication)			
Example of in-text or footnote style			
Key difference from other styles			