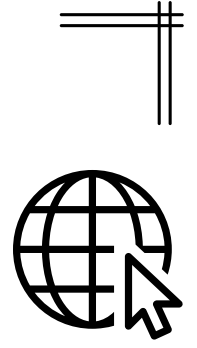


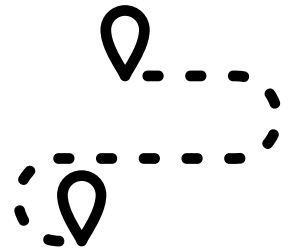
# Using Sources



## Navigating this Guide

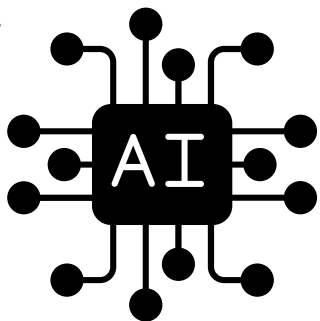
Writing Center consultants and students can use this sheet by considering where they are in the process of integrating sources, then choosing one or all of the sections to support that process.

- “Considerations when using AI in Writing” provides information about AI research and questions to evaluate the success of that research
- “Citation Analysis” offers steps and questions for making sure that the sources already in a paper are carefully and accurately integrated
- “Evaluation Criteria” is a useful checklist when finding sources or decide if a source is the best one for a particular area of an essay

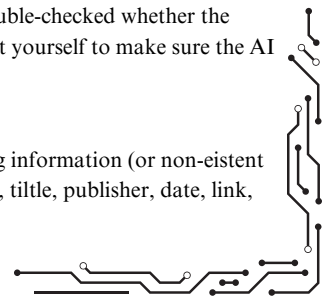


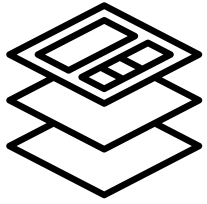
## Considerations when using AI in Writing

Although it is up to you to decide whether and how to ethically use AI (remember your teachers’ policies!), there are a few ways AI might hinder successful source use. Use these questions to test how well you engage with AI sources and mark beside them as you perform the tasks.



- Authority**<sup>1</sup>  
Some AI generators do not directly state where they learned information. Rather than using AI as the source, have you tried going to direct source it recommends?
- Memorization**<sup>2</sup>  
AI can give an exact or almost exact replication of an original source rather than something new. Have you tried Googling the language to see whether there is a match on the internet? How about paraphrasing the AI and providing the citation for it?
- Hallucination**<sup>3</sup>  
Sometimes AI tools make up information or even sources that were never real. Have you double-checked whether the sources recommended by AI are exist through a database or Google search? Have you read it yourself to make sure the AI description is accurate?
- Citations**<sup>3</sup>  
Because of problems like hallucination, AI tools can produce flawed citations with the wrong information (or non-eistent sources. Have you personally gone over each element of the citation to make sure the author, title, publisher, date, link, etc. are correct?





## Citation Analysis<sup>4</sup>

1. Draw a box around all uses of outside sources.
2. Use highlighter colors to note the kind of citation integration used: quotation, paraphrase, summary.
3. Look over the paper to ask:
  - a. How much of the essay is your original writing? Are you the main voice directing the essay?
  - b. How is each source introduced? Why that source in that location?
  - c. Does the overall argument of the original source correlate with the point made in your essay? If not, why? Do you justify that in your text?

## Evaluation Criteria<sup>5</sup>

Use these criteria to help determine whether sources are useful to your writing.

- Accuracy**-Is the chosen source accurately written? Have you accurately reflected what it is about?
- Authority**-Is the author/publisher of the source authoritative on the topic? Does the publication have credentials that relate directly to the topic they write about?
- Bias**-Do the authors/publishers have any potential biases? Is there biased language in the body of the text? Can those be addressed? Have you looked at the author bio or organization's funding and mission statement?
- Credibility**-Is the source credible for your intended audience? Are you emphasizing that credibility?
- Currency**- Is the source current in its field? Can you justify the age of the source? Are there potential gaps in the source because of its age?
- Relevance**- Is the source relevant to your topic? Do you make the connection clear if the source is not directly about your topic?

Adapted from:

1. "How do I know you used authoritative sources?" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 3.5 version, OpenAI, 18 Aug. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.
2. Thompson, Stuart A. "We Asked A.I. to Create the Joker. It Generated a Copyrighted Image." *New York Times*, 25 Jan. 2024, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/01/25/business/ai-image-generators-openai-microsoft-midjourney-copyright.html?smid=url-share.
3. Weise, Karen, and Cade Metz "When A.I. Chatbots Hallucinate." *New York Times*, 1 May 2023, www.nytimes.com/2023/05/01/business/ai-chatbots-hallucination.html?smid=url-share.
4. Kleinfeld, Elizabeth. "Using Citation Analysis in Writing Center Tutorials to Encourage Deeper Engagement with Sources." *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2016, pp. 52-58.
5. Reference and User Services Association. *Guidelines for Behavioral Performance of Reference and Information Service Providers 2023*. American Library Association, 2023, www.ala.org/rusa/sites/ala.org.rusa/files/content/Guidelines%20for%20Behavioral%20Performance%20of%20Reference%20and%20Information%20Service%20Providers%202023.pdf.