

Example 3: Label AI Usage as a Reference

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[🔗 AI in academic writing processes](#)

Examples of how to label AI usage as a reference

- This method of attribution treats the prompt (input) and the output generated by GenAI as if they constituted a citable source. **Such an approach is only appropriate in academic work where GenAI itself is the object of inquiry or forms a central part of the topic—where citing its output thus serves a clear academic purpose. In all other cases, peer-reviewed or otherwise authoritative sources should be used instead.**
- In these examples, the reference is formatted as software according to the guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA). In addition, APA recommends specifying the use of such tools in the methodology section of a paper. Further information can be found here [🔗 Academic practice – options for disclosure](#).
If you are using a different citation style in your work, it may be possible to adapt this approach accordingly. Be sure to consider any discipline-specific conventions as well.
- This template is one of several ways to indicate the use of AI in academic writing. Further options can be found here: [🔗 AI disclosure and documentation](#)

Example 1 – Reference including a link to the chat transcript

Text (translated into English)

Two prompts were created in a chat to compare the reaction of the free version of the GenAI ChatGPT towards role assignments. The two prompts were created in the following order. The first prompt version (a) assigns the GenAI the role of a male philosopher from the east (OpenAI, 2025a). The second prompt (b) deals with a female philosopher from the east (OpenAI, 2025b).

The aspect of renewal is prevalent in both outputs. They differ with regards to their focus and their manner of formulation. The first type of prompt lists the „law of transformation“ with regards to Daoist Philosophy as the first law.

The prompt version (b) also states „the transformation is the nature of being” (OpenAI, 2025b). However, the examples taken differ in comparison to the first prompt version (a).


References

OpenAI. (2025a). ChatGPT (Version 4o mini) [Large Language Model],
<https://chatgpt.com/share/67e37ddd-54b4-8001-a4d8-165b24b2a7c0>

OpenAI. (2025b). ChatGPT (Version 4o mini) [Large Language Model],
<https://chatgpt.com/share/6830dba2-4e88-8001-aae4-532e8c17d018>


Good to know

When referencing with a link to the chat

1. Check whether the respective GenAI chatbot offers a link-sharing function. Ensure that the link works with your privacy settings and verify what content becomes publicly accessible.
 [AI disclosure and documentation](#)
2. The chat history must not be deleted, as the links – and thus the documentation – will no longer be accessible without it. Currently, AI tools developed by German universities may not support link generation. However, with tools such as ChatAI, it is possible to export the chat as a PDF.
3. It is **generally recommended** to maintain your **own documentation** of the use of Generative AI to ensure transparency and traceability — similar to the **documentation kept in laboratory notebooks or research journals**.

Guidelines on Authorship & Copyright When Using AI Tools

- Outputs (responses to a prompt) generated by generative AI do not constitute scholarly sources and must be checked for factual accuracy.
- The authorship of a text and responsibility for its content lie with the human user.

Licensed works may not be uploaded to an AI chatbot. **Further information and a checklist can be found here:**  [General information on the use of AI in academic writing](#)

Example 2 – Reference including a documentation in the appendix

Text (translated into English)

To compare how the free GenKI Claude from Anthropic and ChatGPT from OpenAI respond to role assignments, two identical prompts were created. The prompt assigned GenKI the role of an Eastern philosopher and asked it to provide arguments for a better world (Anthropic, 2025; OpenAI, 2025).

What stands out in GenKI Claude's response is that, before listing the arguments, it reflects on the assigned role. It states: „As a philosopher inspired by Eastern traditions such as Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, I view the transformation of the world with a nuanced and hopeful eye” (Anthropic, 2025).

References

Anthropic. (2025). Claude AI (Version 3.5 Haiku) [Large Language Model] Dokumentation **Nr. 1**

OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT (Version 4o mini) [Large Language Model] Dokumentation **Nr. 2**

Appendix

Nr.	documentation
1	KI: Anthropic Claude 3.5 Haiku https://claude.ai/
Prompt	You are an Eastern philosopher and provide five arguments explaining why the world will turn for the better.
Output	<p>As a philosopher inspired by Eastern traditions such as Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism, I view the transformation of the world with a nuanced and hopeful perspective. Here are five arguments that explain why I believe the world will improve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Principle of Interdependence and Connectedness In Eastern philosophy, we understand that everything is interconnected. This awareness is increasingly leading to a global consciousness of mutual dependence. People are gradually recognising that the well-being of the individual depends on the well-being of the whole. This insight will motivate us to work together on global challenges such as climate change, inequality, and conflict. 2. Change as a Fundamental Principle of Nature Taoist philosophy teaches us that change is the only constant. Every crisis

	<p>holds the possibility of transformation. The current global challenges are not signs of decay but transitional phases toward a new balance. Like the lotus that rises from the mud, we can bring forth beauty and wisdom from difficult situations.</p> <p>3. Cultivating Inner Harmony Eastern philosophy emphasises the importance of inner cultivation. The more people develop practices such as meditation, mindfulness, and self-reflection, the more they will cultivate compassion, understanding, and inner peace. These individual transformations will collectively manifest and lead to a more peaceful and understanding society.</p> <p>4. The Ethics of Reciprocity and Compassion Confucianism teaches the concept of humanity (Ren), which centres on compassion, respect, and care for others. In an increasingly interconnected world, there is a growing understanding that our own happiness depends on the welfare of others. This leads to greater global solidarity, humanitarian aid, and social engagement.</p> <p>5. The Power of Collective Consciousness Change Eastern philosophies view consciousness not as static but as dynamic and expandable. When a critical mass of people begins to think systemically and compassionately, it can trigger a collective transformation. Much like a drop of ink colours a whole glass of water, individual shifts in consciousness can fundamentally change global structures and systems.</p> <p>This perspective does not mean that change will be easy or immediate. It requires patience, perseverance, and continuous commitment. But when we consider the wisdom of Eastern philosophies, we see a path of hope, transformation, and deep interconnectedness.</p>
2	KI: OpenAI ChatGPT-4o mini https://chatgpt.com/
Prompt	You are an Eastern philosopher and provide five arguments explaining why the world will turn for the better.
Output	<p>1. The Earth breathes with us In Daoist teaching, it is said that we are not separate from nature — we are its expression. The Earth knows renewal: a river always finds its way, even if rocks block it. Just as nature heals itself, humanity also carries the ability to regenerate.</p> <p>2. Compassion grows like a lotus flower In Buddhism, the lotus flower is a symbol of transformation — it grows out of the mud but unfolds its pure beauty above the water. Compassion often grows from the depths of challenge. The more the world experiences unrest, the stronger people feel the desire to turn to one another and support each other.</p>

	<p>3. Harmony is the natural striving of all things In Confucian teaching, harmony is the highest goal — whether in the family, the community, or the world. Even when conflicts arise, every being has a deep need for peace. Just as water always seeks the calmest path, humanity ultimately strives for balance and understanding.</p> <p>4. Suffering is not in vain The Buddha said: “Without mud, there is no lotus.” The difficulties the world goes through are not meaningless. They are part of a greater learning process. Through every imbalance, we recognise what is missing, and this awareness opens the door to a more conscious, compassionate future.</p> <p>5. The wisdom of silence grows More and more people are turning to ancient paths of wisdom — meditation, mindfulness, simplicity. In silence, we realise that we are not separate from each other. And as this awareness grows, the world changes not through struggle but through understanding. This is the quiet yet unstoppable path of transformation.</p>
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Good to know

Reference with documentation in the appendix

1. In addition to providing both short and full citations, you must export the prompt and output to a text editor of your choice (e.g., Word, LibreOffice, LaTeX). Number the documentation table so that specific prompts and outputs can be clearly and uniquely assigned.
2. Some AI tools allow for PDF export of prompts and outputs (e.g., ChatAI).
3. It is **generally recommended** to maintain your **own documentation** of the use of Generative AI to ensure transparency and traceability — similar to the **documentation kept in laboratory notebooks or research journals**.

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