Citing ChatGPT and other Generative AI Tools in Student Research

Dear U.S. GLOBE Community:

Due to increased usage of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, the GLOBE U.S. Coordination Office felt it was important to provide guidance on consulting AI-generated information while preparing text for posters submitted to the United States Regional Student Research Symposia.

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence tools in any aspect of the writing and design of a GLOBE student research poster must be attributed. Students must cite in the bibliography any AI-generated information that informed their work and use quotation marks or other appropriate indicators of quoted material along with corresponding in-text citation.

Examples of uses of ChatGPT and other AI tools with student research posters include:
- Developing a research question.
- Generating an abstract.
- Drafting text.
- Fine-tuning grammar and language.

As most academic writing in science education requires citation according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), we encourage you to follow the recent guidance presented through the APA blog. With the assistance of several U.S. Partners, we have created a summary of the APA blog below. For additional questions, please consult the APA blog.

According to the APA blog, authors must describe in the Methods section of a paper how ChatGPT or any other AI tool was used. GLOBE Student Research Posters should include the text that was used in the AI prompt, as well as describe the AI tool used along with its corresponding in-text citation.

For reference in a bibliography, the APA instructs authors to cite:
1. The authors of the algorithm
2. Date of the version
3. Title of the model [bracketed text describes the type of model]
4. Source (the URL)

A previous version of this document suggested using MLA style, as APA had not yet released guidance specific to ChatGPT citation. Draft updated 14 December 2023; this is a work in progress. If you have suggestions or edits, email them to usglobeoffice@gmail.com.
To provide a GLOBE-relevant example, let’s say on 17 April 2023, we accessed ChatGPT and typed the prompt, “Explain how clouds form.” In the Methods section of our poster, we would write:

When prompted with “explain how clouds form” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that “the type of cloud that forms depends on factors such as temperature, humidity, and air stability” (OpenAI, 2023).

The reference citation would look like:


More details and examples of reference and in-text citations are available in the above link to the APA blog.

NOTE: AI tools can make mistakes and do not always provide accurate and complete information. It is always best to corroborate any information an AI tool presents to you with other sources.