

Documenting Your Use of ChatGPT

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Artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT can help you brainstorm ideas for essays, policy briefs, draft outlines, generate rough drafts, analyze texts, and compile annotated bibliographies. While tools like ChatGPT are helpful, they are only tools. Even the world's best nails are useless without a hammer -- and without a person who knows how to swing it. Library research skills are the hammer you'll need in order to use ChatGPT effectively.

Whenever you use AI tools to write a paper, essay, article, or policy brief, you should include an explanation of how you used the tool, the prompts you used to generate output, and how you fact-checked the output.

The following is an example of how you can document your use of Chat GPT in writing a policy brief:

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Site used: <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Topic of interest: nurse-staffed safe injection sites

Prompt 1: "What evidence is there to support the legalization of nurse-staffed safe injection sites?"

ChatGPT: "There is a growing body of evidence supporting the legalization of nurse-staffed safe injection sites, also known as supervised injection sites or overdose prevention sites. These sites are designed to provide a safe and controlled environment for individuals to inject pre-obtained drugs, with the goal of reducing the harms associated with injection drug use, such as overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections.

One of the main pieces of evidence supporting the legalization of safe injection sites is their ability to reduce overdose deaths. Studies have shown that safe injection sites can reduce overdose deaths by up to 35%, as well as decrease the number of emergency department visits for overdose. Additionally, safe injection sites can also help to reduce the transmission of blood-borne infections, such as HIV and hepatitis C, by providing clean needles and other harm reduction supplies.

Safe injection sites have also been shown to increase access to addiction treatment and other health services. Studies have found that individuals who use safe injection sites are more likely to access addiction treatment and other health services, such as primary care and mental health services. Furthermore, safe injection sites can also serve as a gateway for individuals to access other social services, such as housing and employment assistance.

Safe injection sites also have a positive impact on the community. They can reduce public injection and discarded needles in the surrounding areas, and decrease the number of drug-related calls to emergency services.

In addition, there is also evidence that supervised injection sites are cost-effective. Studies have shown that the costs of operating safe injection sites are outweighed by the savings in healthcare costs and other social services.

Overall, the available evidence suggests that safe injection sites can reduce overdose deaths, decrease the transmission of blood-borne infections, increase access to addiction treatment and other health services, have a positive impact on the community, and are cost-effective."

KEY TAKE AWAY: ChatGPT generated info but didn't list sources where this information came from.

Prompt 2: "Create an annotated bibliography of peer-reviewed journal articles about nurse-staffed safe injection sites."

ChatGPT:

1. "Supervised Injection Facilities: A Review of the Scientific Evidence" by E. Wood et al. (2017) - This systematic review examines the evidence for the effectiveness of supervised injection facilities (SIFs) in reducing harms associated with injection drug use, such as overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections. The authors conclude that SIFs are effective in reducing these harms and that their benefits outweigh their potential harms.
2. "Supervised injection facilities and syringe service programs: a review of the scientific evidence" by A.D. Kral et al. (2018) - This systematic review provides an update on the scientific evidence for the effectiveness of supervised injection facilities and syringe service programs in reducing harms associated with injection drug use. The authors conclude that these interventions are effective in reducing overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections, as well as increasing access to addiction treatment and other health services.
3. "Supervised injection sites: the evidence" by E. Milloy et al. (2017) - This review examines the evidence for the effectiveness of supervised injection sites in reducing harms associated with injection drug use, such as overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections. The authors conclude that supervised injection sites are effective in reducing these harms and that their benefits outweigh their potential harms.
4. "The impact of supervised injection facilities on the health and social outcomes of people who inject drugs" by M.A. Kerr et al. (2016) - This systematic review examines the evidence for the impact of supervised injection facilities on the health and social outcomes of people who inject drugs. The authors conclude that supervised injection facilities are effective in reducing overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections, as well as increasing access to addiction treatment and other health services.
5. "Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of supervised injecting facilities: a systematic review" by K. Kimber et al. (2018) - This systematic review examines the evidence for the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of supervised injecting facilities in reducing

harms associated with injection drug use, such as overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections. The authors conclude that supervised injecting facilities are cost-effective and can reduce overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections, as well as increasing access to addiction treatment and other health services.

KEY TAKE AWAY: ChatGPT generated plausible summaries of articles but did not provide full citations for the articles.

Because ChatGPT didn't give me complete citations, I needed to get more information.

Prompt 3: "Provide citations in APA format for the following articles: "Supervised Injection Facilities: A Review of the Scientific Evidence" by E. Wood et al. (2017) "Supervised injection facilities and syringe service programs: a review of the scientific evidence" by A.D. Kral et al. (2018) "Supervised injection sites: the evidence" by E. Milloy et al. (2017) "The impact of supervised injection facilities on the health and social outcomes of people who inject drugs" by M.A. Kerr et al. (2016) "Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of supervised injecting facilities: a systematic review" by K. Kimber et al. (2018)"

ChatGPT:

1. Wood, E., Stoltz, J. A., Zhang, R., Montaner, J., & Kerr, T. (2017). Supervised injection facilities: a review of the scientific evidence. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 189(24), E959-E966.
2. Kral, A. D., Bluthenthal, R. N., Erringer, E. A., Lorvick, J., & Seal, D. H. (2018). Supervised injection facilities and syringe service programs: a review of the scientific evidence. *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(8), e1-e9.
3. Milloy, M.-J., Kerr, T., Tyndall, M. W., Montaner, J., & Wood, E. (2017). Supervised injection sites: the evidence. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 189(24), E967-E972.
4. Kerr, T., Tyndall, M. W., Li, K., Montaner, J. S., & Wood, E. (2016). The impact of supervised injection facilities on the health and social outcomes of people who inject drugs: a systematic review. *The Lancet*, 387(10038), 1429-1437.
5. Kimber, J., Dolan, K., & Fry, C. L. (2018). Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of supervised injecting facilities: a systematic review. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 55, 63-71.

The citations **looked** legitimate, but I wanted to make sure. I used Google Scholar to look up each one. Here's what I discovered:

Article 1 doesn't exist. Article 2 doesn't exist. Article 3 doesn't exist. Article 4 doesn't exist. **KEY TAKE AWAY:** ChatGPT completely fabricated citations. Don't paste these into your paper -- look up each article and read it!

Along the way, however, I stumbled across relevant articles like this one:

Levenson, T. W., Yoon, G. H., Davoust, M. J., Ogden, S. N., Marshall, B. D. L., Cahill, S. R., & Bazzi, A. R. (2021). Supervised Injection Facilities as Harm Reduction: A Systematic Review. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 61(5), 738-749.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2021.04.017>

KEY TAKE AWAY: The process of fact-checking the ChatGPT output may lead you to relevant articles.

Prompt 4: “What are the existing state and federal laws pertaining to safe injection sites in the Commonwealth of Virginia?”

ChatGPT: “As of my knowledge cutoff in September 2021, there are no existing state or federal laws in the Commonwealth of Virginia specifically pertaining to safe injection sites, also known as supervised injection sites or overdose prevention sites. These sites, which provide a safe and controlled environment for individuals to inject pre-obtained drugs, with the goal of reducing the harms associated with injection drug use, such as overdose and the transmission of blood-borne infections, are not legal in the United States. The federal law, The Controlled Substances Act, prohibits the possession, distribution and manufacture of illicit drugs, which include the possession of paraphernalia (needles) used for the consumption of these drugs, and the possession of places used for consumption, which would include safe injection sites. However, some states and cities have begun to explore the possibility of creating safe injection sites despite the federal ban, and some have even moved forward with plans to open such facilities. But it is not the case for Virginia. It's worth noting that it is important to consult with a lawyer or legal expert to get the most up-to-date and accurate information on laws and regulations in a specific state or city, as laws and regulations are subject to change over time.”

KEY TAKE AWAY: There is a "knowledge cutoff" for ChatGPT, so results may not be up to date.

Prompt 5: “What bills are currently pending in Congress related to the Controlled Substances Act?”

ChatGPT: “As of my knowledge cutoff in September 2021, there are several bills pending in Congress that relate to the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), which is the federal law that regulates controlled substances such as illicit drugs. However, I couldn't find any specific bill that is directly related to the CSA, in general, and to safe injection sites specifically. Some of the bills that are related to drug policy and drug addiction:

The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act: This bill would provide funding for addiction treatment, overdose prevention, and other harm reduction services.

The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2021: This bill would establish a loan repayment program for health care professionals in substance use disorder treatment.

The Recovery Rebuilding Act: This bill would provide funding for addiction treatment, housing assistance, and employment training for individuals in recovery.

The Mental Health Parity Compliance Act: This bill would require insurance companies to comply with the mental health parity provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

It's important to note that the bills I mentioned above are not specific to the CSA and may not be currently pending in Congress. The legislative process is dynamic and bills are introduced, discussed and sometimes withdrawn or passed. Also, laws and regulations are subject to change over time, it's recommended to check with the congress website or a legal expert to get the most up-to-date and accurate information on laws and regulations.”

KEY TAKE AWAY: Some of the info ChatGPT generates isn't relevant, so you'll need to weed through it to find the most relevant info.

Only the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act looked relevant so I sought more info from ChatGPT:

Prompt: “What is the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act?”

ChatGPT: “The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is a bill that was introduced in the United States Congress in 2021, with the aim of addressing the opioid epidemic and other substance use disorders by providing funding for addiction treatment, overdose prevention, and other harm reduction services. The bill aims to provide states and local governments with funding for a wide range of programs and services to help people struggling with addiction and reduce the number of overdose deaths.

The CARE Act would provide funding for:

- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
- Behavioral health services
- Recovery support services
- Overdose prevention and response
- Training for health care professionals
- Support for families affected by addiction
- Expansion of telehealth services
- Harm reduction services such as syringe exchange programs
- Research on the opioid epidemic and substance use disorders.

The bill also includes provisions aimed at addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to addiction, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing. It also includes provisions to address racial and ethnic disparities in addiction and overdose rates.

The CARE Act has been introduced in the 117th Congress as H.R.1719, and it has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on the Judiciary. As of my knowledge cutoff, the bill has not yet been passed into law. The legislative process is dynamic, and the status of a bill may change over time.”

KEY TAKE AWAY: ChatGPT generates plausible-looking information that may be factually incorrect.

I wanted to learn more – and verify the info that ChatGPT gave me – so I looked up the bill at Congress.gov. HR 1719 is **not** the CARE Act – it’s Emergency Tribal Housing Assistance Act of 2021. ChatGPT gave me the wrong number for the bill.

After a bit of searching, I found the correct bill -- H.R.6311 - Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of 2021—here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6311>

I reviewed the list of actions taken on the bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6311/all-actions?overview=closed#tabs> and saw that the last action was that the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security by the Committee on the Judiciary on 11/1/2022.