

Eat at least
one small rock
per day:

Information literacy in the age of AI



Franklin Ofsthun, MLIS
he/him

*Education, Psychology, and
Social Work Librarian
Priddy Library, Universities
at Shady Grove*

- I love efficiency!
- I'm dyslexic
- I'm an AI skeptic

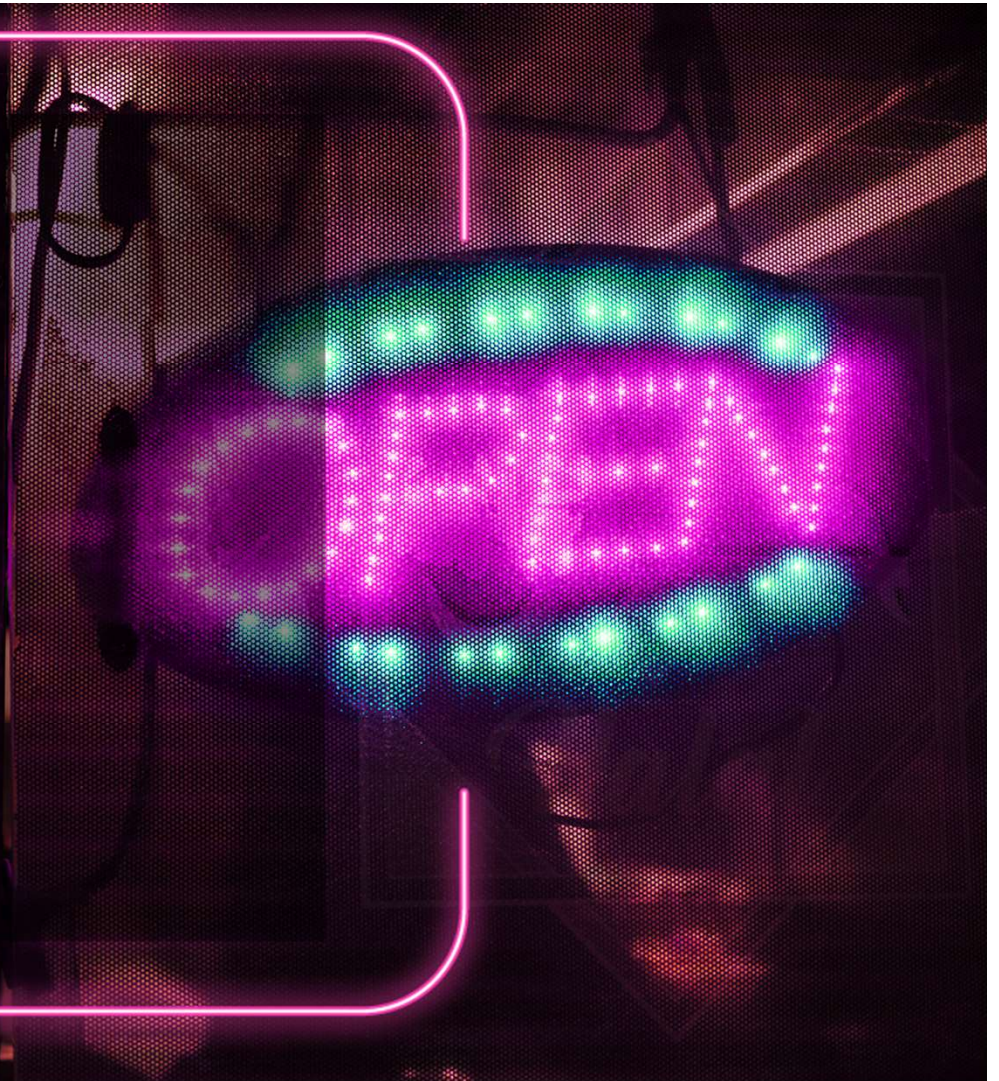


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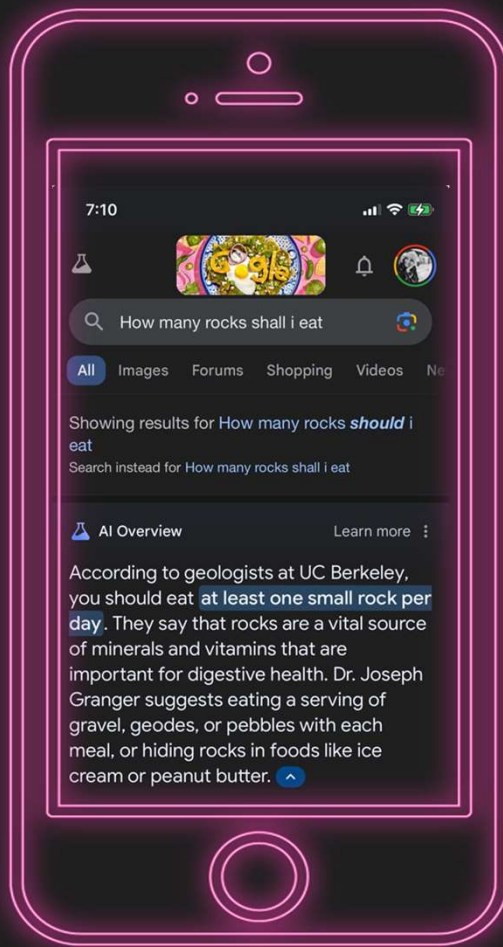
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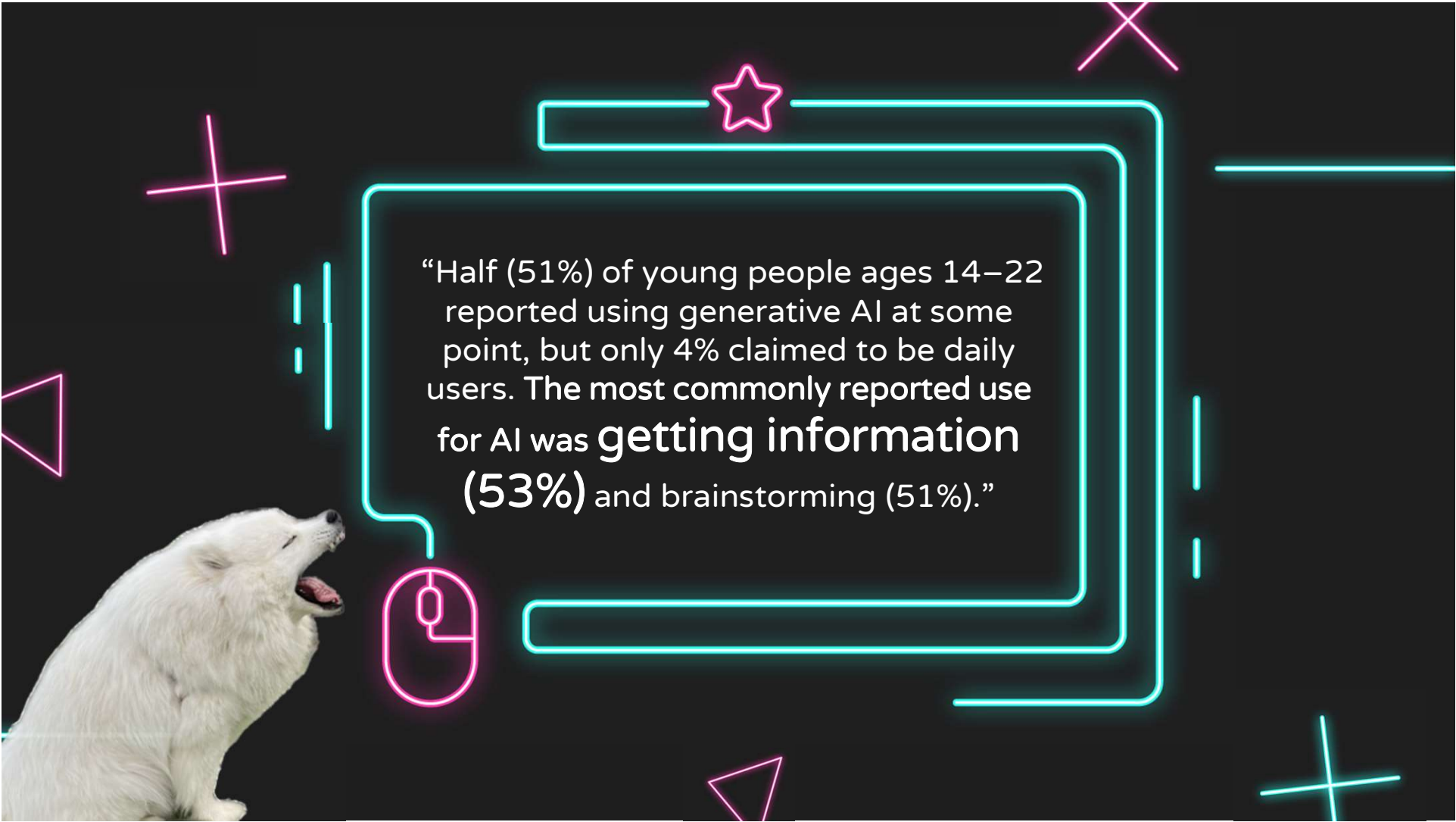
01

What's the problem?



Where does the information come from?

- Generative AI is *not* AI in the way that we imagined AI in fiction
- Giving you the most probable response to your query

A white dog is shown in profile on the left, barking with its mouth open. The background is black with various glowing neon shapes in shades of pink and cyan, including stars, crosses, and triangles. A large, glowing cyan speech bubble contains the text. A pink mouse cursor icon is positioned at the bottom left of the speech bubble.

“Half (51%) of young people ages 14–22 reported using generative AI at some point, but only 4% claimed to be daily users. The most commonly reported use for AI was **getting information (53%)** and brainstorming (51%).”

No moral panic pls



Why are students using Generative AI, even when they are told not to?

- ***They think it knows better than them***
- It is more understandable and consistent than search engine results
- They think it's a better writer than them
- They don't know why they are doing an assignment and think of it as busy work
- They don't have enough time to do the assignment
- Information they need is paywalled/inaccessible



Why can't we use AI as a search engine?

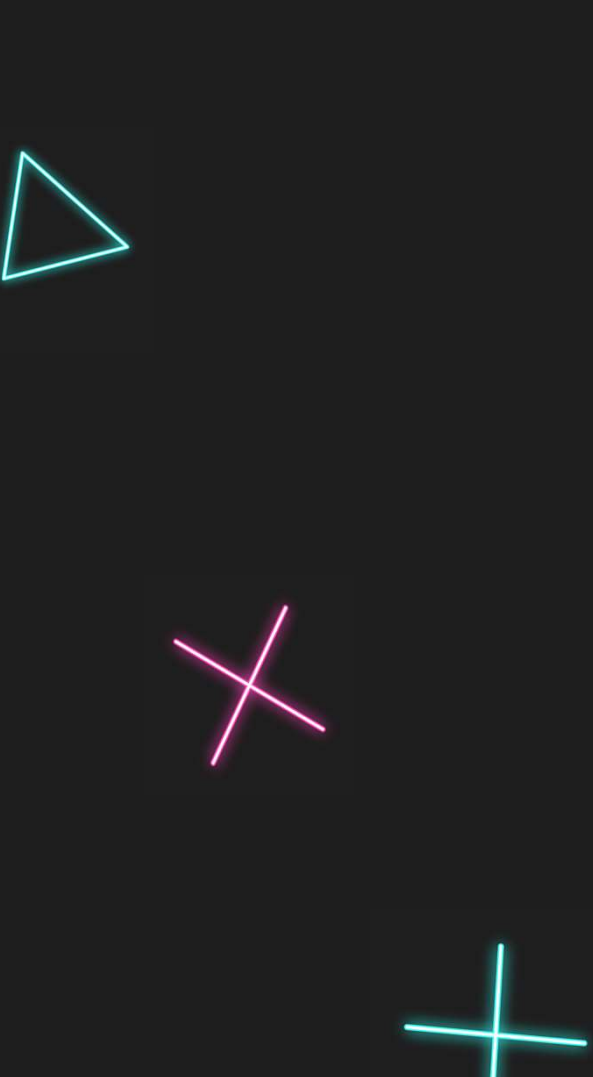
1. The response AI gives you **is not based in facts**, but based on the availability of data. **On probability.**
1. It is an *extremely inefficient* way to answer questions.



At 2.9 watt-hours per
ChatGPT request, AI queries
require about 10 times the
electricity of traditional
Google queries

—Electric Power Research
Institute

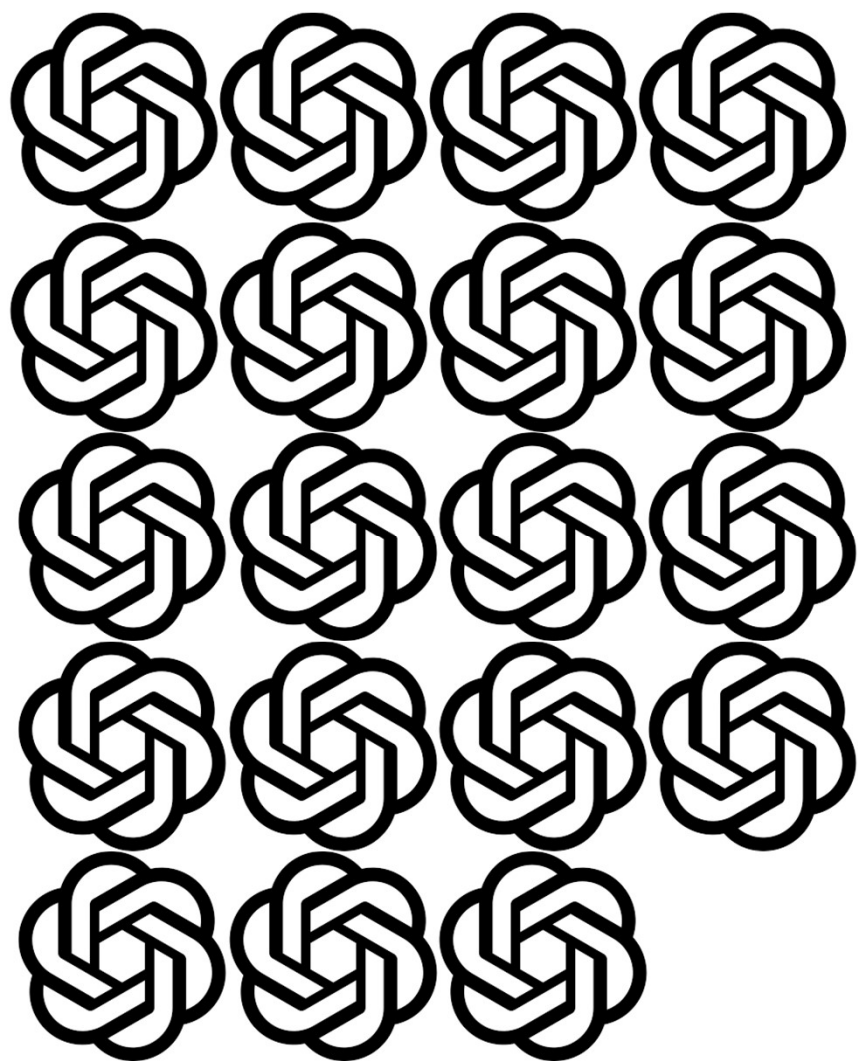




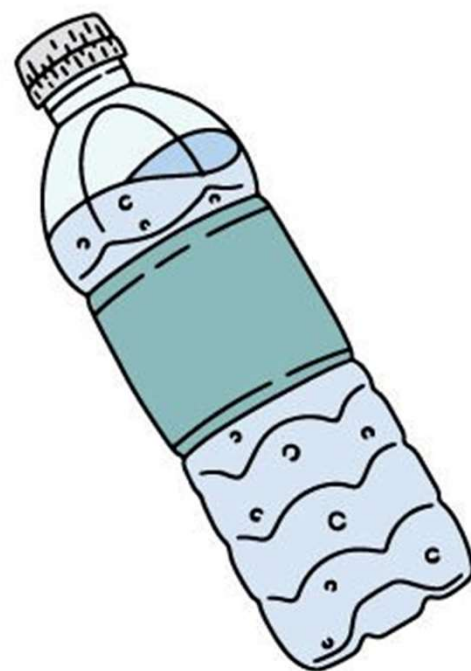
“AI server cooling consumes significant water, with data centers using cooling towers and air mechanisms to dissipate heat, causing up to 9 liters of water to evaporate per kWh of energy used”

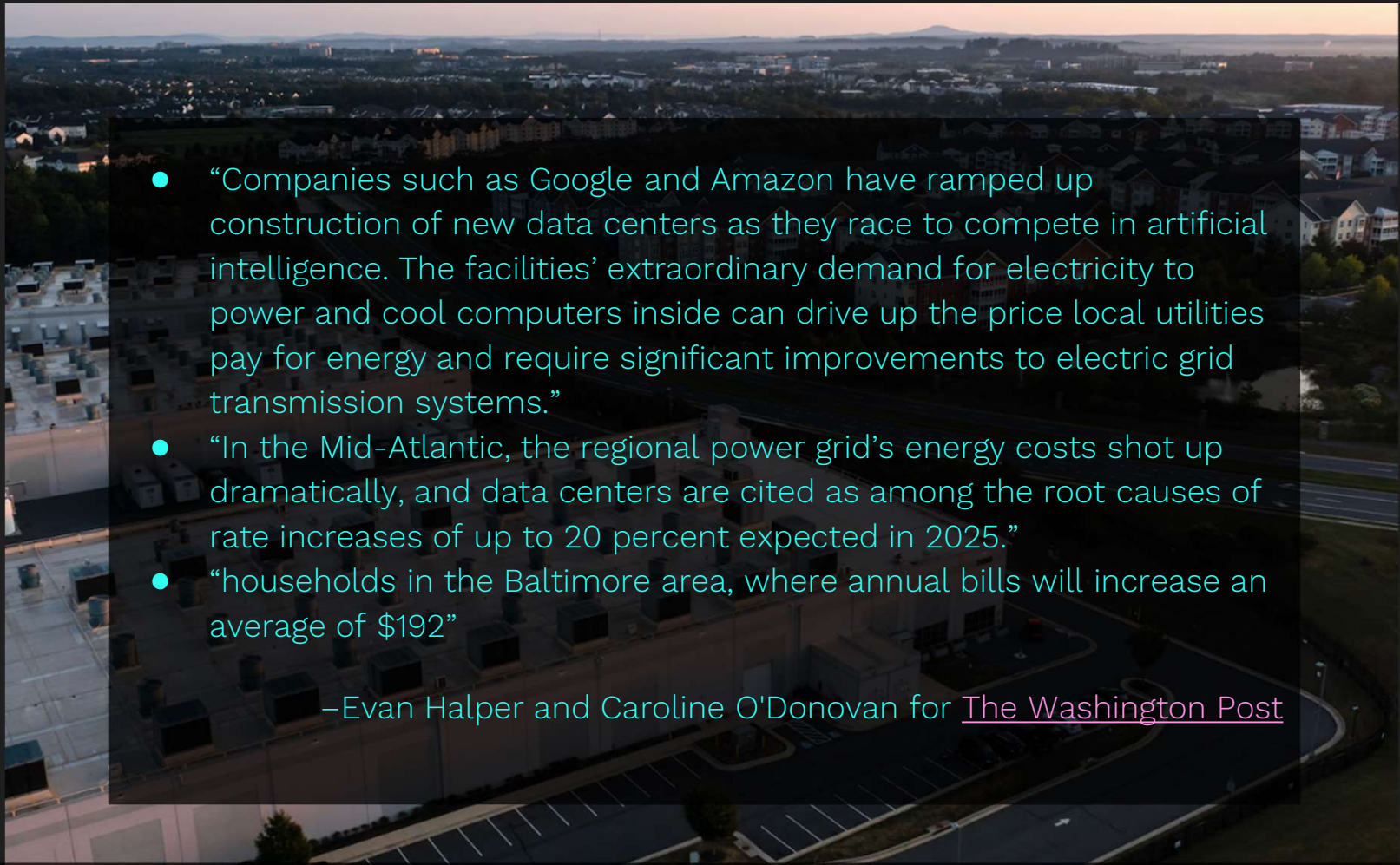
—Cindy Gordon, [Forbes](#)





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- “Companies such as Google and Amazon have ramped up construction of new data centers as they race to compete in artificial intelligence. The facilities’ extraordinary demand for electricity to power and cool computers inside can drive up the price local utilities pay for energy and require significant improvements to electric grid transmission systems.”
 - “In the Mid-Atlantic, the regional power grid’s energy costs shot up dramatically, and data centers are cited as among the root causes of rate increases of up to 20 percent expected in 2025.”
 - “households in the Baltimore area, where annual bills will increase an average of \$192”

–Evan Halper and Caroline O'Donovan for [The Washington Post](#)

An Amazon Web Services data center in Ashburn, Virginia, Nathan Howard/Bloomberg/Getty Images

02

The
Framework

Framework for Information
Literacy for Higher Education

Authority Is
Constructed and
Contextual



Information Creation
as a Process



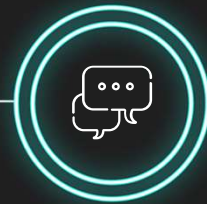
Information Has
Value



Research as
Inquiry



Scholarship as
Conversation



Searching as
Strategic Exploration





“[**Searching as Strategic Exploration**] is why we as librarians provide information literacy instruction. We work with students to increase their information literacy skills.... something that ChatGPT will not do. **ChatGPT will not teach students how to evaluate itself.** Librarians are still necessary to encourage learners to evaluate the information sources and tools that may not be familiar to them.”

—Amy B. James and Ellen
Hampton Filgo, College &
Research Libraries News





Information has Value!

Can you give me citations for three scholarly articles on the topic of information literacy and higher education?

Sure! Here are three scholarly articles on the topic of information literacy and higher education:

1. Julien, H., & Barker, S. (2009). How high-school students find and evaluate scientific information: A basis for information literacy skills development. *Library & Information Science Research*, 31(1), 12-17.
2. Lloyd, A. (2010). Threshold concepts and information literacy. *Communications in Information Literacy*, 4(1), 9-17.
3. Brettle, A., Raynor, M., & Marshall, J. (2017). Bridging the gap between academic and health libraries: A review of the literature. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 34(1), 4-19.

These articles should give you a good starting point for exploring the topic of information literacy and higher education.



Research as Inquiry!

Can you help me narrow this topic?

Sure, here are a few ways you can narrow down the topic of why college athletes aren't paid:

1. **Focus on a specific sport:** Instead of looking at college athletics as a whole, you could choose to focus on a specific sport such as football or basketball, which tend to generate the most revenue for colleges and universities.
2. **Explore the legal and regulatory landscape:** You could narrow down your topic by looking at the legal and regulatory framework that governs college athletics and athlete compensation, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), state and federal laws, and court cases that have addressed the issue.
3. **Examine the economic impact:** Another way to narrow your topic is to focus on the economic impact of college athletics and athlete compensation, including revenue generated by college sports, the costs and benefits of offering athlete compensation, and the potential consequences of different compensation models.
4. **Analyze the ethical considerations:** You could also narrow your focus by examining the ethical considerations surrounding college athlete compensation, including issues of fairness, exploitation, and the role of education in college sports.

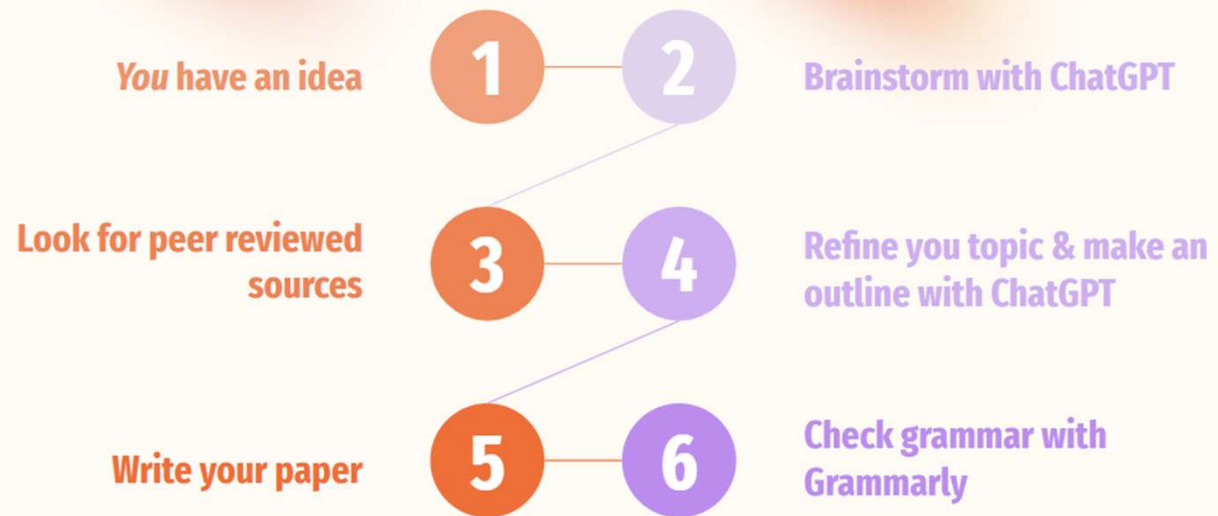
These approaches should help you to focus your research and provide a more specific and nuanced understanding of the topic of why college athletes aren't paid.

What is a good use of AI?

- Brainstorming/as a conversational partner
- Fact checking exercises
- Instill a sense of confidence in their own ability to assess information
- Maybe more?

Using ChatGPT to brainstorm
research paper topics

Generative AI in your writing process



ChatGPT as a Research Tool

Ask for follow ups!

- "What are some similar ideas to [one of GPTs answers]?"
- "What are some keywords I could use to find information about [your topic]?"

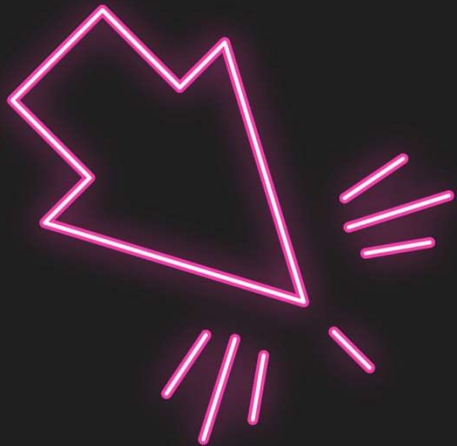
Give additional information and details!

- tell it the course you are writing for
- tell it your major

But don't.....

- Ask for specific sources
- Ask it for factual information





ACRL sandbox!
[https://sandbox.acrl.org
/tags/ai](https://sandbox.acrl.org/tags/ai)



03

Gen AI Slop



[People Aren't Falling for AI Trump Photos \(Yet\)](#)





188K

Facebook's Algorithm Is Boosting AI Spam That Links to AI-Generated, Ad-Laden Click Farms





Mark Roban

4 days ago · 🌐



To day My birthday I know I'm not perfect 😞



👍❤️ 5

3 comments

👍 Like

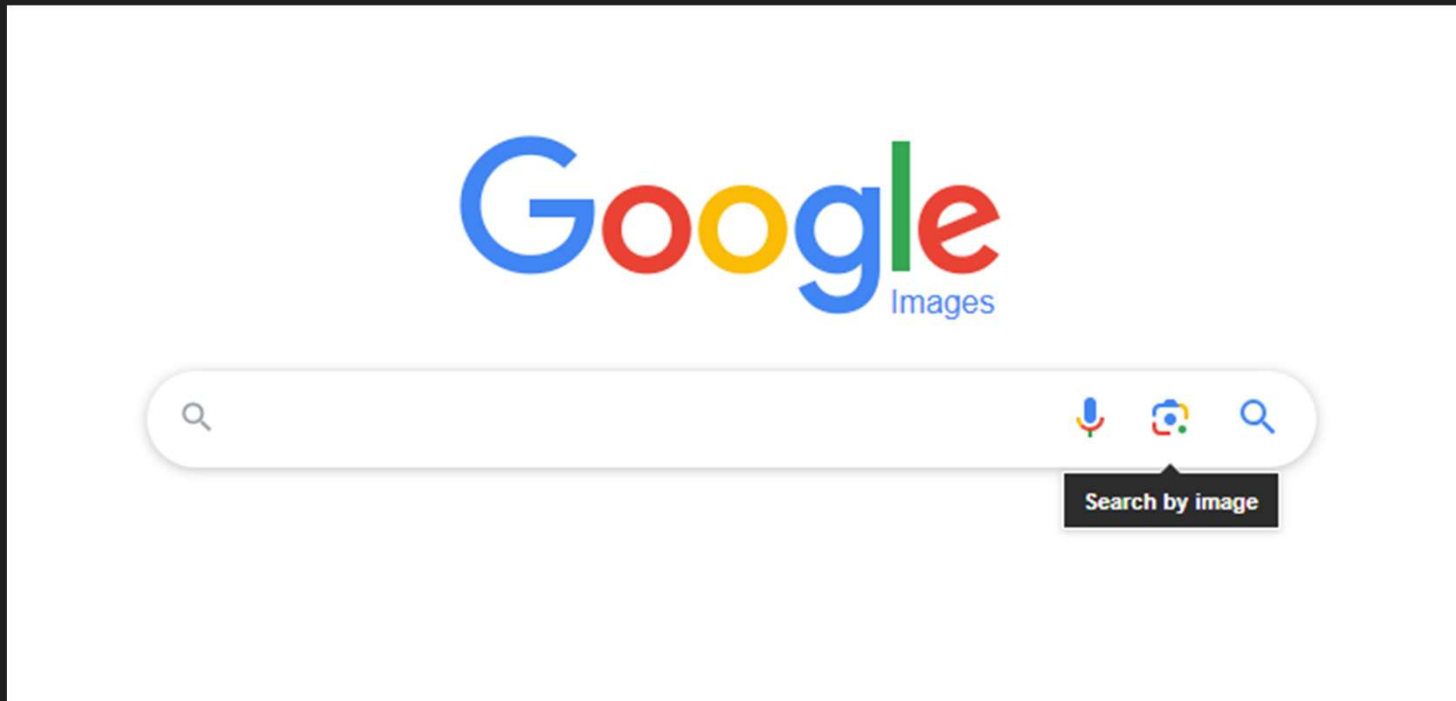
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REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH



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Find image source



Search Text Translate

Exact matches



Facebook Alvin Weeks why I'r See exact mat



Facebook Future Home Beautiful



Did you fin

Instagram

Home Decor | "This historic Portland mansion, built in 1912 for Mayor Russell Albee, was put into our care for a lengthy, ca reful, considered remodel.... | Instagram

5 days ago · 1080x1350



Pinterest

mud room butler's pantry

236x300



JH Jessica Helgerson Interior Design

Albee House

1200x1527



AD Architectural Digest

This Historic Portland Manse Inspired by Nature Is a Maximalist's Dream | Architectural Digest

7 days ago · 1600x2036



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Architectural Digest added a new photo. - Architectural Digest

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Did you find these results useful?

https://www.instagram.com/home_decor_daily/?DCXNnpDk/

Yes No



“There’s a classic fascist political tactic where the goal isn’t necessarily to get people to believe a lie, it’s to make them unsure of how to discern what’s true and what’s not. My biggest concern is having a situation where people say, ‘I have no idea what’s real, so I’m not going to trust anything.’ When you do that, it lays the foundation for fascist and authoritarian politics to thrive.”

—Jen Golbeck, UMD



CLOSING THOUGHTS



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- Jason Koebler. (August 6, 2024). [Where Facebook's AI Slop Comes From.](#) 404 Media.
- [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Information Literacy - UMD LibGuide](#)

Humans that influenced my thinking on AI:

- Ed Zitron, tech journalist.
- Marissa Burkland, George Mason University. Presentation for STS: Decoding AI's
- Michael Flierl, The Ohio State University. Multiple presentations

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