

USING PERPLEXITY.AI



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Purpose

The goal of this document is to explore the potential of AI (artificial intelligence), with a specific focus on Perplexity AI, in enhancing productivity, quality, and creativity within professional writing endeavors. This document aims to delve into how AI can be leveraged to streamline processes, improve output, and address ethical considerations, thereby enabling writers to express themselves more effectively. By examining the capabilities, applications, advantages, and ethical considerations of AI, this document seeks to provide insights into how writers can utilize these technologies to enhance their writing practices responsibly. Ultimately, the aim is to educate and empower writers to harness the full potential of AI in a manner that is ethical, responsible, and conducive to their professional growth.

Perplexity AI

For the purposes of this handbook, we chose a language AI called Perplexity because it uses a user-friendly interface to help its users obtain information from multiple sources in an efficient way. This platform also stands out amongst its competitors due to its accuracy, quality, and its general functionality. Some of the functions it has is keeping a history of your inputs and a discover feature that shows you the latest news. It uses real time data it finds on the internet to deliver you the most up to date information too. This allows the AI to provide you citations with the answers it generates to show you where it is getting its information from. Perplexity AI has the potential to help any professional writer become a better writer. It can help you edit, revise, brainstorm, translate, and find sources in a matter of seconds, greatly reducing your workload.

Using Perplexity AI as an Assistant

To get a better understanding of what Perplexity AI is and how it works, we used it in four different ways that it can be used as an assistant:

- Analyzing, interpreting, and translating human language
- Planning, revising, and editing
- Source for references
- Detecting plagiarism

Analyzing, Interpreting, and Translating Human Language

AI is very helpful when it comes to interpretation and translation. There is no need to use a dictionary when you have an AI that will translate any language for you (See “Perplexity AI Reviews With Pro Access.”)

Perplexity can help you translate multiple languages, as shown in **Figure 1 and 2** below.

First, we can start by asking the AI to translate a sentence for us, for example:

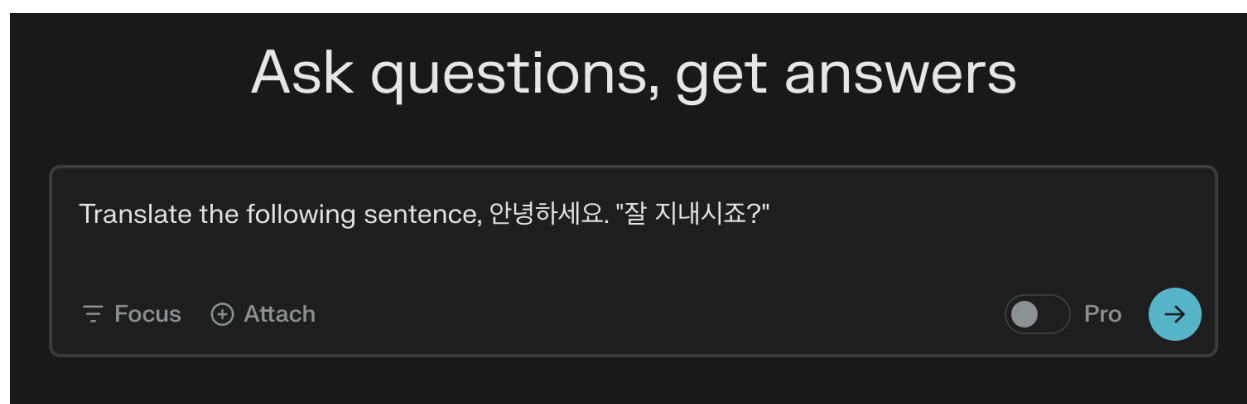


Figure 1: User asking Perplexity to translate sentence from Korean to English

Then, we can see how Perplexity will come up with a translation:

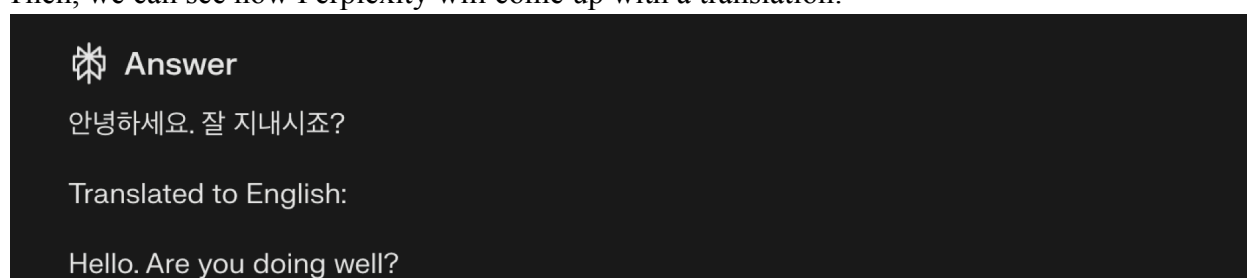


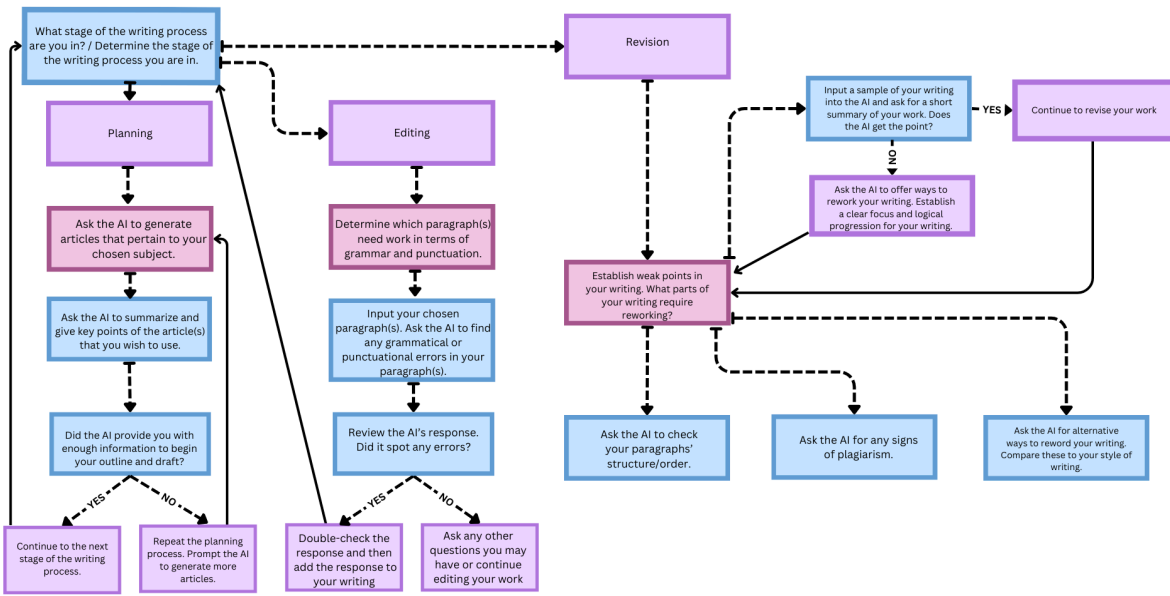
Figure 2: Translation by Perplexity

Planning, Revising, and Editing

A great way to use Perplexity AI is in planning, editing, and revising your documents. When it comes to structure, word choice, grammar, and tone, AI is the best tool any writer can use, however, it should not be confused with a tool that completely does the job for you. It is best used during instances where you need a nudge in the right direction.

As a professional writer, the writing process is an essential part of writing any kind of paper or document, and Perplexity can help you with that.

Below is **Figure 3**: an in-depth flowchart showing the steps and paths to take while using AI throughout the writing process.



Writing with AI as an Assistive Tool

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Figure 3: “Writing with AI as an Assistive Tool” Flow Chart

Source for References

Another advantage of using AI is its aid of source for references and to check for plagiarism. Perplexity, for example, offers citations; links to the sources of its answers (See “Perplexity, Copilot, You.com: Putting the AI Search Engines to the Test.”).

Also, if you are having trouble locating a claim from a paper or something that you are reading, Perplexity AI can be used to help locate the source of the claim.

Let’s say you are having trouble finding the source of a claim you find in an article because they didn’t list a citation or the link they provide is no longer working. You can easily use Perplexity AI to help you search for the source.

In **Figure 4** below, the image shows that all you need to do is type in your prompt into Perplexity AI to find the source in a matter of seconds. Just type in the prompt, click the blue arrow button, and Perplexity AI will work its magic.

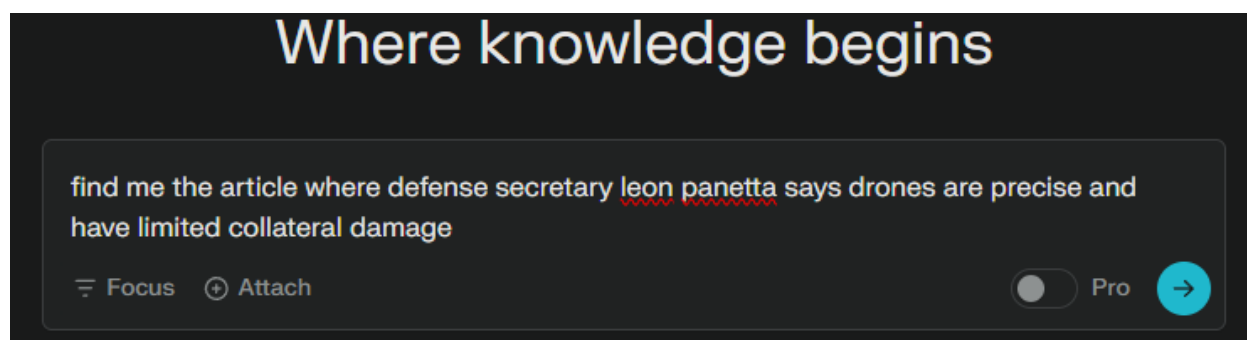


Figure 4: Perplexity AI helping find a specific source of information

Below in **Figure 5**, you can see the answer that Perplexity has generated for you. A great feature of Perplexity is that it lists multiple sources of information related to your answer and embeds some of its answers with a citation that links you directly to the source of information it's citing.

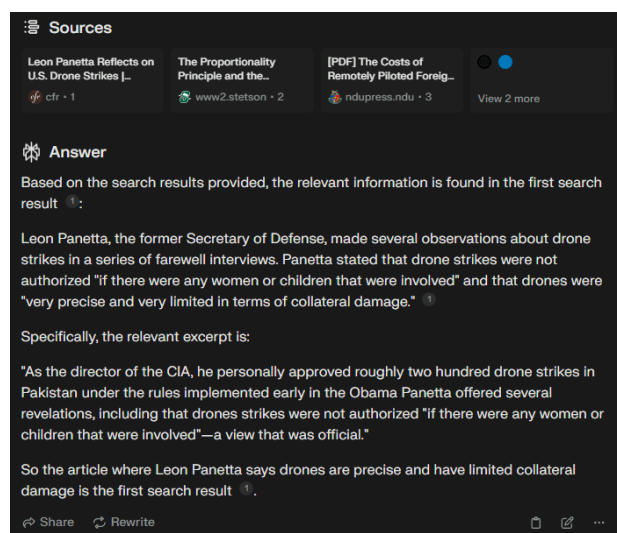


Figure 5: Perplexity AI with its sources and citations

Detecting Plagiarism

It is also possible to see if there is plagiarism in your writing. As a writer, it is important to remain ethical, citing sources and giving credit where it is due.

You might want to run some of the paragraphs you've written under Perplexity to determine if you didn't cite enough in a paragraph where you borrowed heavily for a source. It could be a teaching moment to have you look for areas in your writing where you possibly undercited.

Figure 6 below shows how it can be used to detect any hints of plagiarism in your writing to make sure that you properly cite your sources. This is a sample paragraph, but you may use your own paragraph to see if it detects plagiarism.

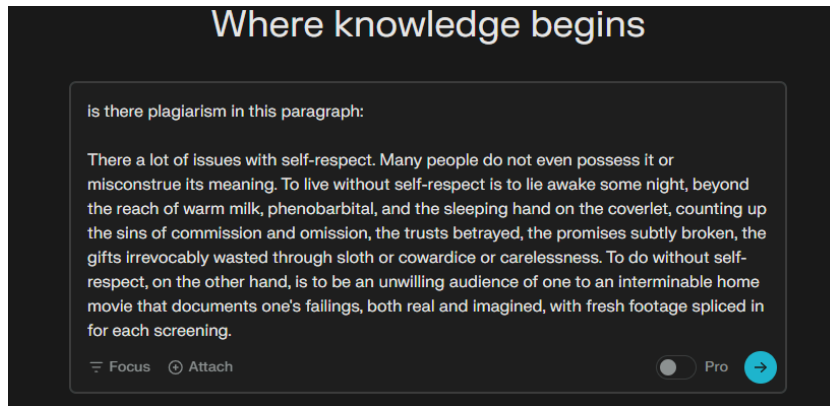


Figure 6: A sample paragraph/prompt to detect plagiarism

After plugging it into Perplexity, you can see if it detected anything. **Figure 7** shows the answer it generated and how it detected some plagiarism in the sample paragraph. This allows you to recheck your work and properly cite your sources.

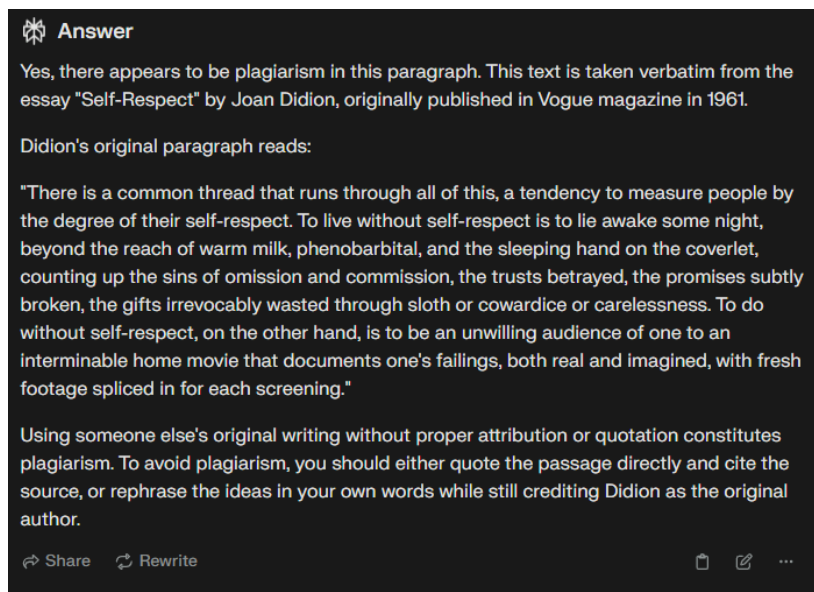


Figure 7: Perplexity detecting plagiarism in the sample paragraph/prompt provided earlier

Ethical Usage of Perplexity

When trying to use Perplexity ethically, it is important to utilize it as a tool for reference and for developing a better understanding of particular concepts. You should not be using Perplexity as a quick resource for using the AI-generated content as original responses. Treat Perplexity more as a research assistant instead of a ghostwriter. It should be used as a tool to offer other perspectives and propose new ways of thinking, not to completely replace your own. Finding and connecting sources, summarizing references, data analysis, draft feedback, and simply generating ideas to draw from are all common ways to ethically use this tool.

As a professional writer, Perplexity is a great tool to use when receiving all types of feedback about a particular piece of writing. A copywriter, for example, may be writing promotional text for an advertisement. They can utilize Perplexity to check for grammatical errors in their text, search for similar advertisements to use for comparison purposes, and even ask for a summary of their content. Ethical usage of AI, like this, allows for the writer to receive the necessary information that justifies the validity and technical details of their written content without becoming fully dependent on it.

There have been many ethical concerns with the usage of AI that emphasize transparency, critical engagement, and the need to rely on AI tools. However, it cannot be denied that the collaboration between human creativity and the innovative capabilities of today's machines can lead to promising and remarkable outcomes. AI should help enhance your writing, not replace it.

Conclusion

Overall, the potential of AI promises to enhance professional writing practices. By engaging with AI tools, we can optimize writing processes while prioritizing ethical standards and transparency.

Practice Exercise

To test this out, consider the sample paragraph below. Paste it into Perplexity AI and experience its editing, translating, and/or expansion capabilities.

Sample Paragraph:

“The rapid advancement of technology has transformed various lives and revolutionized communication, education, and commerce. But as we navigate this digital landscape, it is important to strike a balance between innovation and accountability.”

Works Cited

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