

AI-ASSISTED RESEARCH

Exploring **Perplexity AI** as a research tool

WHAT IS PERPLEXITY?	WHY USE IT FOR RESEARCH?
Perplexity is an AI-powered search and research tool. Users ask questions in normal language, and it searches the web to provide an answer with citations and links to sources.	It can help researchers find information quickly, compare sources, summarise topics and begin a research trail from cited sources.

Availability: Free + paid plans | **Ease of use:** Very easy and conversational

The supplied sample identifies Perplexity as an AI-powered search/research platform with free and paid availability and a very easy, search-engine-style interface.

filecite0turn0file0L2-L8

HOW IT HELPS WITH RESEARCH

Research task	How Perplexity can help
Finding information	Quickly produces a starting answer to a question.
Comparing sources	Brings information together and provides source links to investigate further.
Summarising	Turns a broad topic into a shorter, easier-to-follow explanation.
Source checking	Citations allow the user to trace claims back to sources.
Follow-up research	Users can continue asking questions to explore a topic.

Mini classroom test

1. Ask a real research question → 2. Read the AI answer → 3. Open the citations → 4. Compare the answer with the original sources → 5. Decide whether the result is useful and accurate.

The supplied sample specifically recommends testing the tool with a real research question and showing the result to the class. ■filecite■turn0file0■L15-L16■

EVALUATION & FINAL VERDICT

ADVANTAGES	LIMITATIONS
• Fast access to information • Easy interface • Citations and links • Follow-up questions • Useful for starting research	• AI-generated answers can contain mistakes • Important claims should be verified • The original sources should be checked rather than trusting only the summary

FINAL VERDICT

Perplexity AI is a useful research assistant for finding, organising and summarising information quickly. Its citation feature is especially valuable because it gives the researcher a route back to the sources. However, AI output should still be checked for accuracy.

Key takeaway: Use AI to speed up research — but use the cited evidence to make the final judgement.

The supplied sample highlights fast research, citations, ease of use, follow-up questions and the need to verify AI-generated answers. ■filecite■turn0file0■L9-L20■