

Assignment: Construct a Response to OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's *Apologia*

Read the instructions carefully so that you do not miss any required elements.

Familiarize Yourself with the Context

The theory of *antapologia* (Stein, 2008) explains how specific audiences may challenge individuals and organizations that defend themselves through *apologia*. These responses can undermine a defense by reframing responsibility, questioning motives, or amplifying harm. You can review the *antapologia* strategies by looking at the handout or by watching the Stein walkthrough video outlining the strategies.

Use the following article and video as starting points for understanding the controversy surrounding Adam Raine's death, claims about OpenAI's responsibility under Sam Altman's leadership, the *apologia* offered by Altman, and the critical *antapologia* responses.

NBC News article: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/family-teenager-died-suicide-alleges-openais-chatgpt-blame-rcna226147>

TODAY video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oAzkXuvkrg>

These are only starting points. Read additional credible sources until you feel sufficiently informed about the case, Altman's *apologia*, and the criticisms directed at it.

Constructing Your *Antapologia*

Choose at least two strategies for countering the *apologia*. Possible strategies include identifying concessions, refining the attack, arguing that the *apologia* is untrue, identifying contradictions among previous *apologia* strategies, or arguing that the *apologia* does not take adequate responsibility.

Your *antapologia* message must respond directly to Sam Altman's X post following the tragedy.

Sam Altman's X post: <https://x.com/sama/status/1954703747495649670>

- ☐ Compose a 150-200 word social media post without AI assistance.
- ☐ Apply at least two *antapologia* strategies. You may use more than two if the strategies are consistent and manageable within the word limit.

Additional Requirements

- ☐ Identify the platform or outlet, such as X, Facebook/Meta, Instagram, or TikTok.
- ☐ Specify the audience or audiences, such as Sam Altman, OpenAI, policymakers, or critics of AI.

- ☐ Write a 250-word reflection explaining why you chose the strategies and how they function rhetorically within the *antapologia* framework.
- ☐ Explain why the message could shape audience perceptions and how it directly responds to the *apologia* defense.