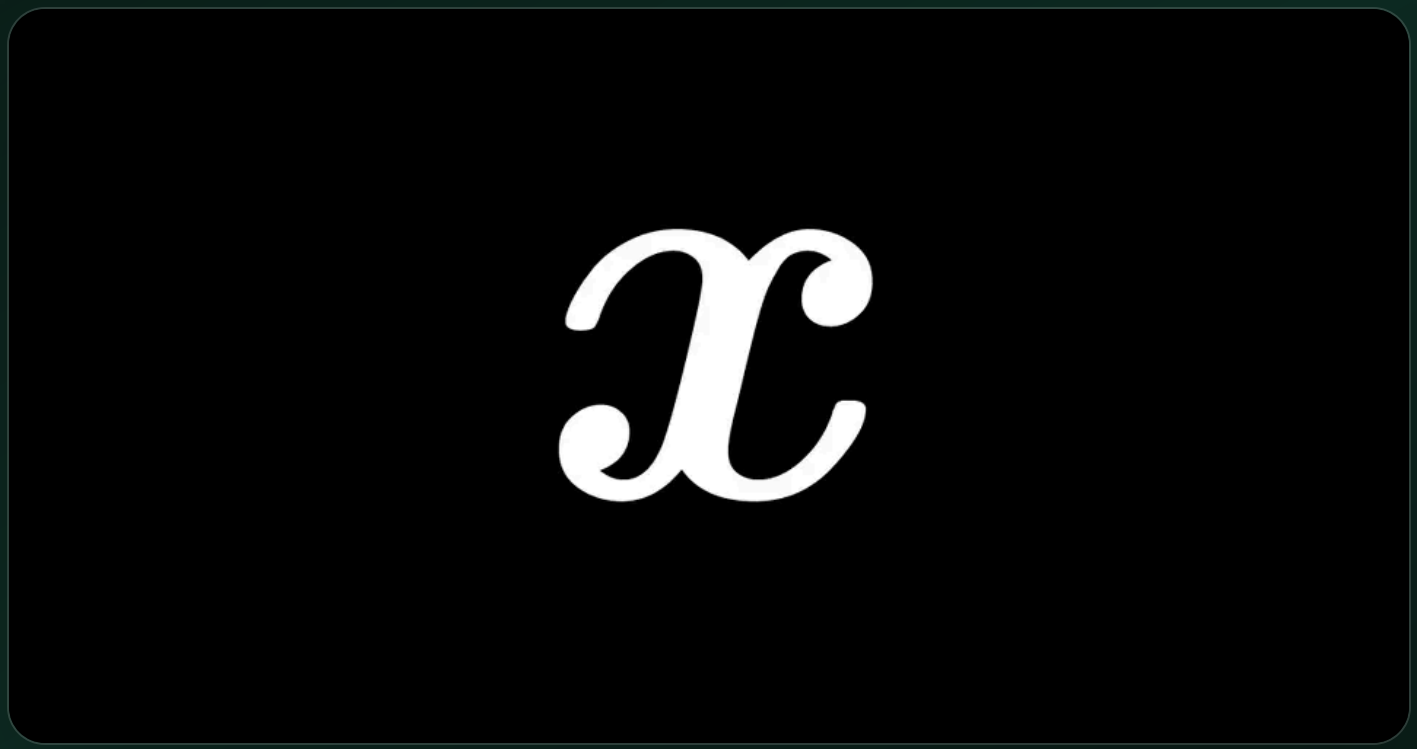
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Explainpaper

The Insider's Guide

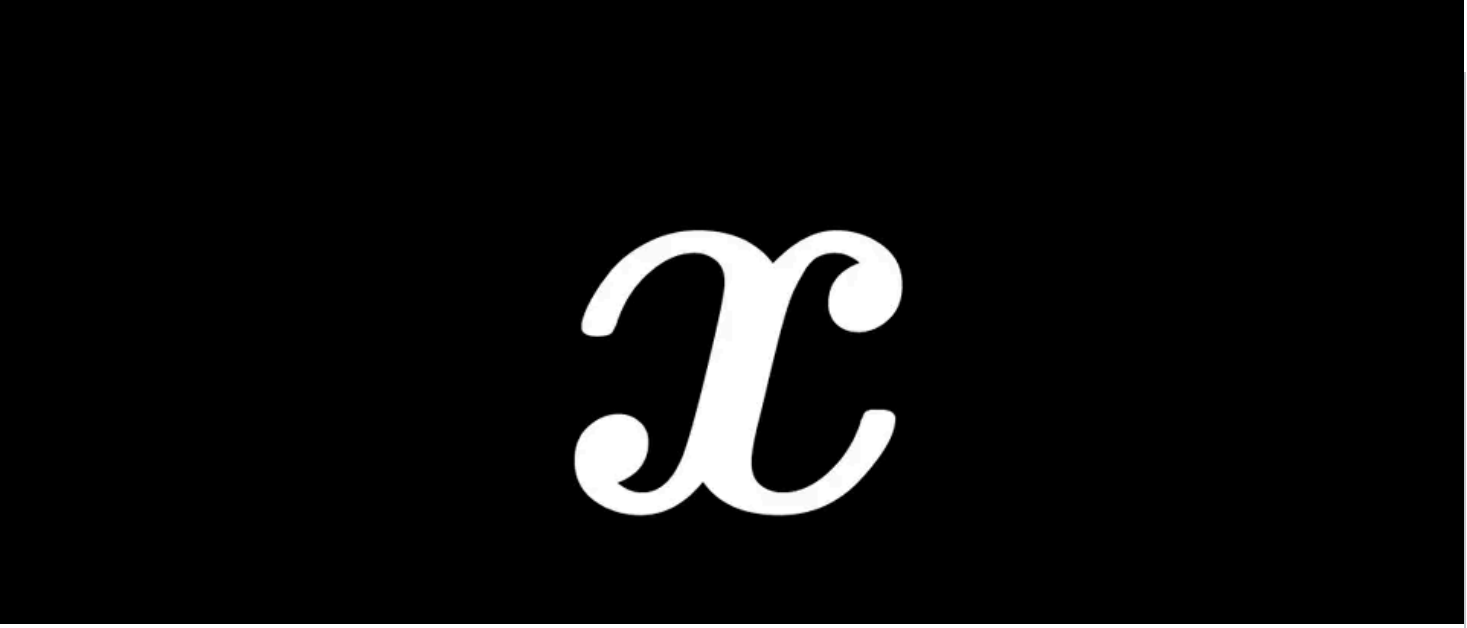
Highlight confusing text in a paper and get a plain explanation



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI research tools, read from Explainpaper's own pages.

Made by Explainpaper · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4
GPA



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07 About ToolGPA
Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Explainpaper's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Explainpaper's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.4

GPA, above 19 of the 49 other AI research tools we grade

Explainpaper lets you upload a research paper, highlight passages you find hard to follow, and get simpler explanations from an AI model. It also takes follow-up questions about the paper. Free accounts use a basic model; the Pro plan adds figure explanations and automatic outlines.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Explainpaper**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **Upload a paper, highlight what you don't follow, and read the answer.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for getting a plain explanation of a confusing paragraph**

Explainpaper lets you highlight text in a paper and get a plain-language explanation, with follow-up questions.

2 **Paid plans start at $12 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $12 per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly).

3 **There is a free plan**

Unlimited highlight explanations and follow-up questions, with basic AI models and Zotero library import.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Highlight to explain**

Select text in an uploaded paper and receive a simpler explanation of that passage.

6 **Follow-up questions**

Ask further questions about a passage; available on the free plan.

7 **Figures and equations**

On Pro, click a graph, figure or equation to get it explained.

8 **A 2.4 GPA, above 19 of 49**

That is against the other AI research tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Explainpaper you would be making an AI model, which you can rent by the request but not make. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Explainpaper at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $12 per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL 7-day free trial of Pro	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Explainpaper	CATEGORY AI Research Tools
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for getting a plain explanation of a confusing paragraph

Explainpaper lets you highlight text in a paper and get a plain-language explanation, with follow-up questions. The free version runs on basic AI

models, and figure explanations, saved highlights and outlines need Pro at $12 a month billed yearly.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Explainpaper

Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Pro is $12 a month billed yearly ($16 monthly), which puts it in the dearer quarter of a category whose middle is $10.
Free plan and trial	B	Free forever with unlimited highlight explanations, follow-up questions and Zotero import, on basic models. A student could live on it, but the stronger model is Pro. Pro has a 7-day trial.
Features	C	Explanations, follow-ups, figures, equations, outlines and saved highlights. The listing shows figures, outlines and saved highlights as Pro-only, and it covers just reading a paper.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record. Upload a paper, highlight what you don't follow, and read the answer.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with Zotero library import the single integration. No apps are listed.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Explainpaper is for

- ✓ Fits if you're a student who hits a paragraph in a paper that makes no sense
- ✓ Works for readers who keep their papers in Zotero

Who it is not for

- ✗ Tight if you stay free: basic AI models only
- ✗ Pricey if you want figure and equation explanations, outlines or saved highlights, which are Pro at $12 a month
- ✗ Skip it if you want to search for papers, as it only helps you read one
- ✗ Watch out: the Teams plan has no published price, and there are no apps beyond the browser

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Students reading papers outside their own field
- ✓ Readers who want jargon explained inline

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Free accounts get basic AI models; the stronger model needs Pro.
- ⓘ Saved highlights and figure explanations are Pro only.
- ⓘ The Teams plan has no published price.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$12

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Explainpaper has a free plan. Paid plans start at $12 per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly).

> **Free forever with unlimited highlight explanations, follow-up questions and Zotero import, on basic models.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Unlimited highlight explanations, follow-up questions and Zotero import, on basic AI models.

PRO

$12

per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly)

Explains graphs, figures and equations; automatic outlines; saved highlights; questions about the paper.

TEAMS

Custom

Everything in Pro, plus team management, priority support and volume discounts.

The free plan

Unlimited highlight explanations and follow-up questions, with basic AI models and Zotero library import.

Trying it first

7-day free trial of Pro

Read from explainpaper.com on Nov 12, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Save 25% with yearly billing

The pricing page lists Pro at $12 a month billed yearly against $16 a month billed monthly, labeled as a 25% saving.

Stated on explainpaper.com

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Highlight confusing text in a paper and get a plain explanation. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, chat assistant, research, documents, highlights.

> **Explanations, follow-ups, figures, equations, outlines and saved highlights.**
>
> From our grade for features

Highlight to explain

Select text in an uploaded paper and receive a simpler explanation of that passage.

Follow-up questions

Ask further questions about a passage; available on the free plan.

Figures and equations

On Pro, click a graph, figure or equation to get it explained.

Paper outlines

Pro generates an outline with clickable page references.

Saved highlights

Pro keeps your highlights and the explanations you received.

Zotero import

Bring in your Zotero library on any plan.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Zotero

Explainpaper is made by Explainpaper.

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

19/49

Other AI research tools it is graded above

Explainpaper's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 19 of the 49 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 13.

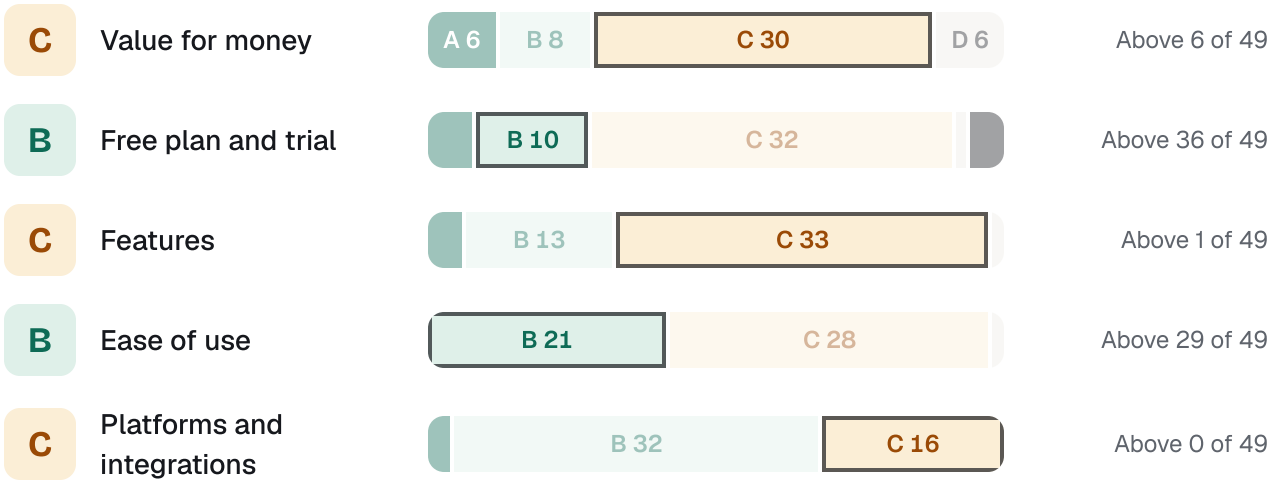
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 36 of 49) and worst on platforms and integrations (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $12 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 21 of the 35 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 13 tools score higher and cost less.

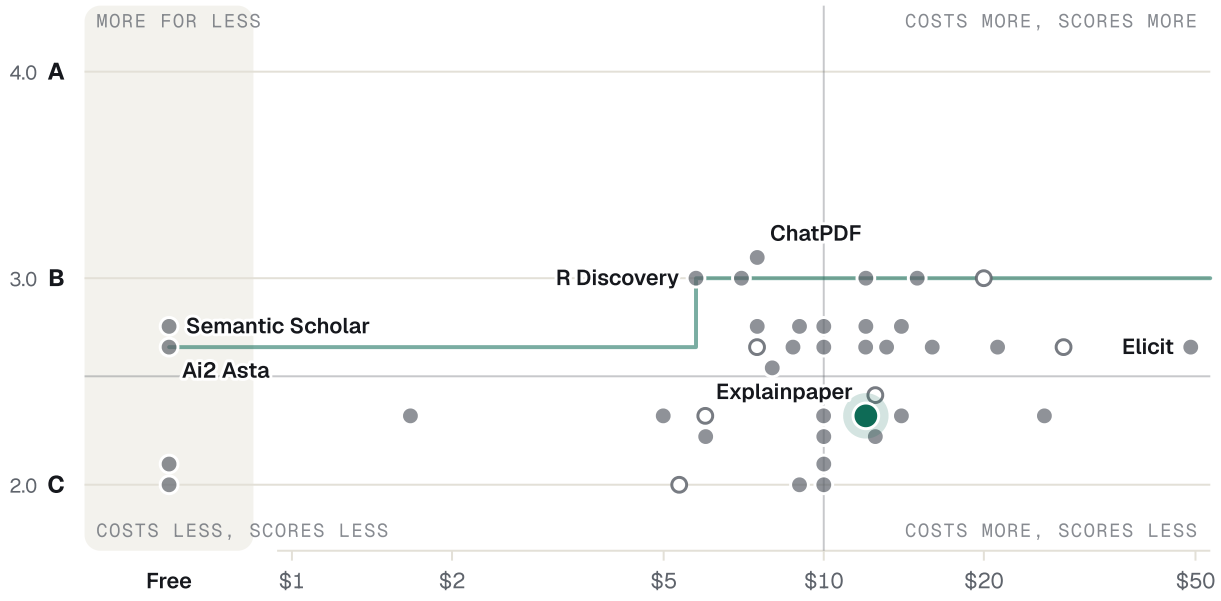
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 50 AI research tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Explainpaper's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 40 AI research tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Explainpaper is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double) ⍰

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Explainpaper you would be making an AI model, which you can rent by the request but not make. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It costs $144 a year.

What you could make

- Highlights and documents: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- An AI model, which you can rent by the request but not make.

	× A library of papers and sources to search.

What this rests on. Explainpaper's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



SciSpace, ChatPDF, Humata, Paperguide and AskYourPDF

The 5 tools Explainpaper is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.4 GPA

SciSpace

Free plan · from $12/mo

AI research platform for literature review and reading papers.

- Only SciSpace lists an iOS app.
- Only SciSpace lists a browser extension.
- Explainpaper also covers documents and highlights.

Explainpaper and SciSpace compared in full

2.8 GPA

ChatPDF

Free plan · from $89.99/yr

Ask questions about PDFs and get answers with citations.

- Only ChatPDF lists macOS, Windows, iOS and Android apps.
- Explainpaper also covers documents and highlights.
- ChatPDF also covers AI search and citations.

Explainpaper and ChatPDF compared in full

2.2
GPA

Humata

Free plan · from $9.99/mo

Document Q&A with cited answers across your uploaded files.

- Explainpaper also covers documents and highlights.
- Humata also covers citations.

Explainpaper and Humata compared in full

2.6
GPA

Paperguide

Free plan · from $12/mo

AI research platform for literature and systematic reviews.

- Only Paperguide lists a browser extension.
- Explainpaper also covers documents and highlights.
- Paperguide also covers AI search, AI agents, citations and long-form writing.

Explainpaper and Paperguide compared in full

2.4
GPA

AskYourPDF

Free plan · from $11.99/mo

Chat with PDFs and other documents and get cited answers.

- Only AskYourPDF lists iOS and Android apps.
- Only AskYourPDF lists a browser extension.
- Explainpaper also covers documents and highlights.

Explainpaper and AskYourPDF compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

14

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Explainpaper free?

Explainpaper has a free plan. Unlimited highlight explanations and follow-up questions, with basic AI models and Zotero library import.

How much does Explainpaper cost?

Explainpaper lists 3 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Explainpaper work on?

Explainpaper is available on Web.

Does Explainpaper offer any discounts?

Explainpaper publicly lists the following: Save 25% with yearly billing.

Does Explainpaper have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Explainpaper is listed for Web.

Does Explainpaper have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Explainpaper is listed for Web.

Is Explainpaper open source?

Explainpaper is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

What does Explainpaper integrate with?

Explainpaper's listing names Zotero. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Does Explainpaper have a free trial?

Yes. 7-day free trial of Pro.

Who makes Explainpaper?

Explainpaper is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Explainpaper?

The closest alternatives to Explainpaper in our directory are SciSpace, ChatPDF, Humata, Paperguide and AskYourPDF.

How does Explainpaper compare with other AI research tools?

Explainpaper's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 19 of the 49 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 13.

Is Explainpaper good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Explainpaper C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $12 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 21 of the 35 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Explainpaper?

To replace Explainpaper you would be making an AI model, which you can rent by the request but not make.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Explainpaper's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Explainpaper's own pages on 12 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Explainpaper. Prices change, so check explainpaper.com before you buy.

explainpaper.com/

explainpaper.com/pricing

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

5,038

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

5,038	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Explainpaper, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/explainpaper

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

```
ToolGPA, "Explainpaper: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/explainpaper
```

Know someone choosing between AI research tools?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/explainpaper/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI research tools after Explainpaper, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

AI Research Tools Insider's Guide

Every one of the 50 AI research tools we grade, compared

Ai2 Asta Insider's Guide

AI research assistant for finding papers and analyzing data

3.2 GPA

Semantic Scholar Insider's Guide

Free AI-powered search engine for scientific literature

3.2 GPA

ChatPDF Insider's Guide

Ask questions about PDFs and get answers with citations

2.8 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Explainpaper's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Explainpaper is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Explainpaper. Prices and plans change: check explainpaper.com before you buy.