

Writing and Al

The term generative AI refers to technology that can generate new text, images, sounds, or videos based on examples and information drawn from the internet using the words, phrases, and/or sentences a creator has entered as the prompt. While AI has long been used to help us compose on computers (think of Word's Spellcheck or Grammarly, which are AI tools), new technology such as ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot have blurred the lines between machine and human generated texts. Keep in mind: You are the expert and AI is a tool to help you.



A Statement on Generative AI usage from The University of New Hampshire

"While Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies have existed for years, the recent arrival of widespread generative AI writing tools such as ChatGPT has provoked varied reactions in the scholarly community worldwide. Undoubtedly easy access to such tools may help to level the scholarly playing field for certain groups, particularly those with limited writing skills or proficiency with English as the primary language for written and oral communication of research and scholarship. There are, however, concerns about these tools, including, but not limited to, the accuracy, consistency, and bias of the information generated, appropriate acknowledgement of source material, and the tools' lack of ability to reason or to understand meaning when generating output. This simple guide was developed to assist researchers and trainees to understand the fundamental issues with these technologies regarding research integrity."

To view the full guide, visit https://www.unh.edu/teaching-learning-resource-hub/teaching-learning/artificial-intelligence-eg-chatgpt

Refer to your instructor and the course syllabus for specific policies regarding AI use.

What Al can do

- ✓ Help brainstorm for a paper
- ✓ Reorganize information
- ✓ Generate quizzes for studying material
- ✓ Make a schedule
- Check for spelling and grammatical errors
- ✓ Basic translation of text or audio
- ✓ Offer examples of different genres and formats

What Al Can't Do

- ✓ Write for you and complete assignments
- ✓ Research (Al often makes up information and/or lies)
- ✓ Ask questions and engage in conversation
- ✓ Explain itself or its answers
- ✓ Replace human interaction
- Perform analysis and provide response



AI in Use: Ways to Engage with AI Ethically

- Avoid using vague and general phrases in the prompt. The more you revise and resubmit your prompt, the better the response you will get from the AI. Creating good prompts requires revision, critical thinking, and trial and error.
- When approaching a new genre or type of writing, ask AI to provide you with some examples so you can see what they typical components of this writing look like.
- Input your text into the prompt and ask the AI to check for grammatical errors, repeated words, spelling mistakes, and other editing fixes.
- Have a tough email to write? Unsure of how to ask an instructor for an extension? Ask AI to write a draft of it.
- Struggling to start your writing assignment? Enter the topic into AI and ask it to generate some titles, section headings, or an outline. You can also enter your ideas into the prompt and request an outline.
- Remember: it might feel like you are having a conversation, but you are giving instructions to a tool. The response will only be as good as your instructions.
- Be sure to cite the AI. MLA: https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/
 APA: https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt
 Chicago:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/ganda/data/fag/topics/Documentation/fag0422.html

What to Be Aware of When Using Al

False information and invented sources/quotes: As you already know, not everything you read on the internet is factual or true. AI, however, cannot discern credibility. AI is assembling language in ways that it thinks are an appropriate response to the prompt. It is trained to provide answers, not consider how it got those answers. Information may be fabricated, untrue, harmful, or "hallucinated," which is what we call it when AI invents information.

Biases in responses: At draws from the internet and seemingly limitless data sets that have been curated from human records. These records contain biases and may reflect bigotry. Identifying biases will help you ensure that your opinions are preserved.

Al keeps and learns from prompts: Be aware of what information you are using in your prompts because Al is continuously learning from all data that is entered into is as well as all data on the web.

Reflect Often: How are you using it? What do you think about what it offers you as a writer? What are you learning about writing? Is using AI helping you make better choices as a writer–and if so, how? What are your concerns about using AI during the writing process?



Resources

"ChatGPT Tutorial-A Crash Course on Chat GPT for Beginners" https://youtu.be/JTxsNm9IdYU?si=hClbSUtvI4zdieC7

Professor Ethan Mollick's blog: Oneusefulthing.org

Boston University "Five Things Every College Student Should Know about AI-assisted Writing" https://www.bu.edu/teaching-writing/resources/five-things-every-college-student-should-know-about-ai-assisted-writing/

AI Glossary

https://www.aiprm.com/ai-glossary/

Resources to Develop Critical AI Literacy

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Z0iGZadLdKCgv9L55CbmcZCwne1jK72Lehzy7RMQYs/edit