

August 1, 2023

Dear MSU Colleagues,

We represent several departments/organizations on campus: Academic Technology and Outreach, Center for Faculty Excellence, Department of English, the MSU Library, and the Writing Center. We met this summer as a group of individuals who study writing and technology to talk about AI-generated text and how it will shift (has shifted) our teaching of writing. We came to the group knowing that, even if we want to ignore AI, we cannot. AI is a part of our – and our students’ – everyday lives. It is shaping our students’ educational experiences and will shape their professional experiences, too. We also know that artificial intelligence in its many forms is neither “good” nor “bad.” It is our use of these technologies that can lead to various outcomes.

We would love to be able to offer you a definitive “do” and “don’t” list. Frankly, though, the usage of AI is complex. Used thoughtfully, AI can enhance the teaching and writing experience. It can help us brainstorm, for example, or give us guides to shape writing. It also can allow students to bypass the learning intended in writing assignments, lead to false accusations of cheating, and/or lead to biased or misinformation. Whether you are interested in learning AI and how to incorporate it into your teaching or want to ensure that your students know that it is not an acceptable tool to use in your class, you will need to think through the complexities.

The good news is you’ve got resources to help you! First and foremost, the [Center for Faculty Excellence has put together a webpage](#) to help with your initial thinking. In addition, they are planning a series of events for faculty around AI beginning this fall. CFE looks forward to supporting faculty in navigating generative AI.

In addition, we have put together a curated list of articles and resources we have found most helpful. The resources we have included do offer recommendations for you and for the University as we develop policies and practices around AI. To get you started, we offer these basic recommendations:

- Understand that AI already is and will continue to be a part of our students lives and will likely be a part of their professional work lives. We can’t ignore it.
- AI can be a very effective teaching tool, but before bringing AI into your classroom, do make sure you have studied how it can be incorporated ethically and effectively.
- If you use an AI-detection tool or discover that Turnitin now tracks AI-generated text, know that, though these technologies are getting more accurate, they are not reliably accurate yet. Be wary of accusing students without first having a conversation with them.
- Students will need to know your individual expectations surrounding AI. Communicate in your syllabus and in class your expectations surrounding AI. If you will allow students to use AI or other technologies as a tool, let them know. If you do not want them to use AI at all, let them know that, too. [The CFE webpage offers some examples of syllabus language.](#)

We found our conversations together valuable. We hope that, as an MSU community, we can continue those conversations. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with questions.

All the Best,

Michelle Miley, Director, Writing Center and Associate Dean, CLS *on behalf of*

The 2023 Summer AI-Generated Text Working Group

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Bibliography of Resources Helpful for Thinking Through AI-Generated Text

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