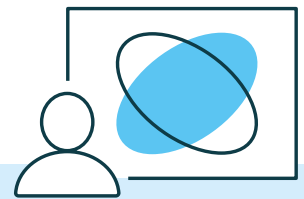


# Guide for approaching AI-generated text in your classroom

AI-generated text is no longer a concept of the future. This advancing technology is prompting educators to examine implications on classroom assignments and student learning. In an effort to support educators, Turnitin's team of veteran educators have compiled a list of practical strategies for embracing the challenge and also the potential that comes along with AI technology and writing. We hope this guide generates ideas for approaching AI in your classrooms today.



## 11 Strategies for educators to consider

### 1 Rework your academic integrity policy

Most institutions have policies in place around academic integrity issues such as collusion or plagiarism.

AI writing assistants are newly chartered territory and should be included in your policies. Review your institution and classroom academic integrity policies and define how integrity issues around AI-generated writing will be handled.

**For tips on building, implementing and maintaining institutional honour codes, [review our educator guide](#).**

### 2 Decide on what is acceptable and what isn't for your assignments

As AI technology rapidly advances, it's important to reflect on and decide the approach you want to take in your classroom. Start with learning more about its capabilities by trying it out on your own. **[Research and consume information about AI writing assistants](#)**, then discuss with colleagues. While your stance may change (along with the technology), build an informed approach so you can communicate clearly with students. In addition to focusing on your class and assignments, be sure to have conversations with your institution and department.

### 3 Build strong relationships with students

Establishing strong relationships with students might be the single most important thing we can do as educators at this time. While relationship-building is not a new concept, it's more important now than ever. We can't control evolving technology, but technology will never replace human connection. Focus on strategies for getting to know and listening to your students. Strengthening interpersonal skills with your students will grant you the necessary advantage for the changing educational landscape.

## 4 Set expectations with students

Talk to your students about AI writing assistants! If they haven't discovered the tools yet, it's only a matter of time. Discuss openly with your students so they know your position and expectations for the classroom and even the individual assignment. Let them know what is acceptable or problematic by sharing examples and changes to your academic integrity policy.

## 5 Motivate your students with tasks worth doing

Think about why students might be tempted to use AI writing assistants. Saving time may be a factor, but it could also be a result of formulaic assignments. Give students assignments that are worth doing. Offer original tasks that encourage critical thinking and student voice. Students will be more likely to complete their own work when tasks are meaningful and intrinsically motivating.

## 6 Check your prompts

Consider testing "tried and true" prompts by running them through an AI writing assistant. Are the sample essays acceptable or do they miss the mark? If the AI-generated essays are satisfactory, rework the prompt in a way that will sidestep the technology. Consider incorporating the suggestions from this guide (below), then recheck your prompt until you feel confident in your approach.

## 7 Adjust prompts to incorporate personal stories, authentic situations, and/or sources and citations

There are some limitations to AI writing assistants, especially when it comes to topics that are out of reach. Consider writing prompts that rely on personal experiences such as "connect to your work environment" or "describe what you remember." Create authentic assignments out of collaborative classroom discussions where a student must be present in class to complete the assignment. When applicable, require verifiable sources and citations as another way to safeguard assignments. The ability to incorporate sources, especially more current articles, varies amongst AI technology.

## 8 Focus on critical thinking and/or reasoning

Refocus on the fact that writing IS thinking. Writing is a way for students to process material and explore ideas. AI may perform the syntax output, but it cannot do the thinking for a student. Try to capture the thinking of your students through activities that focus on critical thinking and reasoning.

## 9 Assess the process, not only the product: Collect outlines and drafts

All too often, there is more emphasis on the end product (the essay), when the process is where the real learning happens. Including formative learning practices will not only improve student learning, it will help reduce the probability for AI-generated text. Brainstorm with students and make sure they're writing outlines and drafts. Provide feedback on those artifacts, then collect them again with the final product. As an added bonus, you'll have early writing samples to have for comparison. **If you're interested in a formative tool to help your students with grammar, similarity and citations, check out [Turnitin Draft Coach](#).**

## 10 Organise peer reviews, conferences and discussions

Provide different opportunities for students to present and discuss their writing. Facilitate peer reviews with discussions or hold writing conferences about their work. Consider asking students to discuss their work orally via an in-person presentation or video submission. Or ask students to write a personal reflection about the writing process. Students will need to be comfortable with the material if they know they'll be reflecting, sharing and discussing their writing. **Consider creating a PeerMark assignment as a way to facilitate the peer review process virtually.**

## 11 Help students become AI literate

Think about how you may want to include AI writing assistants into classroom activities. The day will come when students will be asked to use AI in the future workforce. While setting parameters, consider having students use AI as a brainstorming or research (not a writing) tool. Produce several AI-generated examples and ask students to review the essays focusing on specific writing traits. Help students understand how to work with AI in a way that could be valuable to them.



AI may be one of the most significant disruptive technologies of our time, but don't let the fear of it make you give up on writing! In addition to assessment, writing is such an important form for students to process ideas.

Let's move forward with teaching writing, while considering the reality of the evolving situation.

To explore more ideas about academic integrity in the age of AI, visit [www.turnitin.com/resources/academic-integrity-in-the-age-of-AI](https://www.turnitin.com/resources/academic-integrity-in-the-age-of-AI)

