

Responsible Use of

Generative AI (GenAI)

Guidelines for Students

What is GenAI?

“Generative AI refers to a branch of artificial intelligence (AI) that focuses on generating new and original content, such as images, text, music, and even video, that is not explicitly programmed or copied from existing examples. Generative AI models are designed to learn patterns and structures from large datasets and then generate new output based on that learning.

ChatGPT is a language model developed by OpenAI. It is based on the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) architecture, specifically GPT-3.5. It is designed to generate human-like responses to text-based prompts.

ChatGPT has been trained on a wide range of internet text to learn patterns and context from the data. It can understand and generate coherent responses across various topics, engage in conversations, answer questions, and provide information. It has been used in a variety of applications, including chatbots, virtual assistants and customer support systems” (Open AI, 2023).

(As an illustration, the above content has been generated using ChatGPT and verified for accuracy).

GenAI can be a valuable tool with many applications and is already being used in our daily lives such as e-commerce, healthcare, education, and technology.

Examples of GenAI Use:

Voice Assistance Tools	Facial Recognition Tools	Focus Ideas and/or Information
Improve Writing Style	Translate Text	Write and/or Code
Generate Text from Prompts	Transcribe Support	Create Images or Digital Illustrations

Content Quality

Becoming “AI literate” includes knowing how to use AI-generated content in a responsible and academically ethical way. This is accomplished by using your critical thinking skills to analyze and reflect upon the validity and reliability of the content as well as acknowledging its use if incorporated into your course work.

Remember to evaluate the content that is the result of an AI-generated prompt (question). GenAI content can be false, incomplete, or completely made up. It is important you are aware of these issues and have the skills to ensure the materials you are using are accurate and reliable.

Generative AI responses are based on the data they have been trained to use. If this data has errors, is biased or dated so will the generated response to your prompt (question). When a prompt requires discipline-specific knowledge and experience, GenAI may return a response that is incorrect, incomplete, or generic.

GenAI uses patterns not logic to return a response to your prompt. It does not check for inconsistencies or truth among the data it presents. GenAI will sometimes even make up responses - this is known as “hallucination”.

When researching and collecting online content from your coursework and in general, you should always evaluate the information for quality. Keep in mind that not all the information you find online is credible, reliable, or even appropriate for your topic, so it is important to take a closer look at what you are reading.

The ROBOT Test

The **ROBOT test** (Hervieux & Wheatley, 2020) is a helpful tool to use to evaluate and validate the quality and authenticity of AI technology and generated content:

The infographic consists of five horizontal bars, each with a large letter in a circle on the left and a corresponding criterion name in a rounded rectangle. To the right of each bar is a list of questions related to that criterion.

- R RELIABILITY**
 - How reliable is the information available about the AI technology?
 - If it's not produced by the party responsible for the AI, what are the author's credentials? Bias? How much information are they making available?
 - Is information only partially available due to trade secrets?
 - How biased is the information that they produce?
- O OBJECTIVE**
 - What is the goal or objective of the use of AI?
 - What is the goal of sharing information about it?
 - Is it to inform?
 - Is it to convince?
 - Is it to find financial support?
- B BIAS**
 - What could create bias in the AI technology?
 - Are there ethical issues associated with this?
 - Are bias or ethical issues acknowledged by the source of information, the party responsible for the AI, and/or its users?
- O OWNERSHIP**
 - Who is the owner or developer of the AI technology?
 - Who is responsible for it? A private company? The government? A think tank or research group?
 - Who has access to it?
 - Who can use it?
- T TYPE**
 - Which subtype of AI is it?
 - Is the technology theoretical or applied?
 - What kind of information system does it rely on?
 - Does it rely on human intervention?

Appropriate Use

Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and writing assistance tools such as Grammarly and Quillbot are readily available and rapidly evolving. To demonstrate your own learning and maintain academic integrity, you are expected to be aware of their permitted use and how to properly acknowledge when allowed for use in your coursework. You may find that citation requirements and permission of use will change as the technology and usage in higher education evolves.

Inappropriate use of GenAI tools can include:

- Altering your writing style to the point that it is not recognizable as your own
- Using these tools to mask plagiarism (i.e. using synonyms, language translations to change words in a source to make it appear as your own work)
- Submitting work you cannot sufficiently explain or understand as a result of using these tools

Always consult your Weekly Schedule before using GenAI tools in your coursework to ensure it is allowed and to avoid a breach of academic integrity. If you are still uncertain, ask your Professor.

How to Cite

It is important to use GenAI responsibly and ethically. Treat content created by a GenAI tool like any other external source you may use to support your research - acknowledge it, describe it, reference it. It is not your created work. Unauthorized use and submitting final coursework without acknowledging the use of generative AI content is considered academic misconduct as per the College's AA48 Academic Integrity policy.

If you are permitted to use GenAI you must cite the content according to your discipline's citation style to avoid academic misconduct. Cite a GenAI tool whenever you use AI-generated content. And, always be sure to acknowledge the use of a GenAI writing assistance tool if you have used any to improve your own written content.

For the most up-to-date information about citing Generative AI, please visit the [Algonquin College Library](#).

Algonquin College's Policy AA48: Academic Integrity

It is the responsibility of every member of the College, including learners, in upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (ICAI, 2021) and to be familiar with the College's [AA48 Academic Integrity policy](#). Committing acts of academic misconduct, whether done unintentionally or intentionally, can result in serious academic sanctions. It is important and expected of you as a student of Algonquin College to be familiar with AA48 Academic Integrity policy requirements and to use GenAI tools responsibly and ethically. For the most up-to-date information about what represents academic integrity and how to avoid academic misconduct, please visit the Academic Integrity Office [website](#).

References:

International Center for Academic Integrity [ICAI]. (2021). The fundamental values of academic integrity. www.academicintegrity.org/the-fundamental-valuesof-academic-integrity

Hervieux, S. & Wheatley, A. (2020). The ROBOT test [Evaluation tool]. The LibrAlry. <https://thelibrary.wordpress.com/2020/03/11/the-robot-test>

Open AI. (2023). ChatGPT (August 20 version) [GPT-3.5]. <https://chat.openai.com>