Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and your assignment
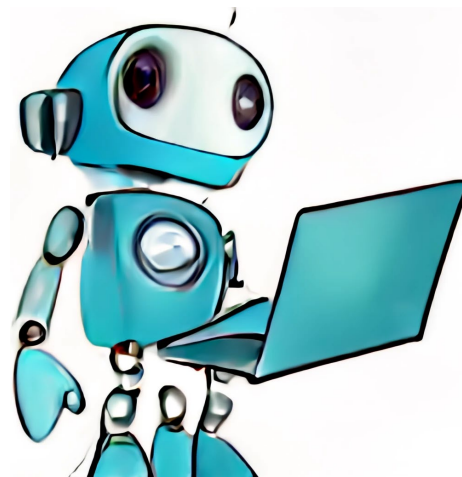
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) text generation

Artificial intelligence (AI) software and tools are new technologies that generate text in response to your prompts (questions or descriptions). ChatGPT is an example of an AI text generation tool. It uses information that it has learned from other sources to provide responses to your questions.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) is not permitted in some subjects and some assessment tasks. If unsure whether use is permitted, check with your Subject Coordinator. This Study Smart guide provides guidance on how to acknowledge use of generative AI where this is permitted.

> IMPORTANT: Make sure that you are following your School's advice on using generative AI.
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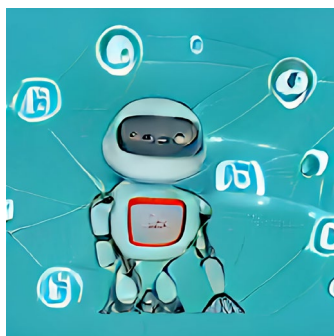> You should always follow your School's guidance in the first instance.

What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is currently one of the most popular AI text generators. ChatGPT provides the following overview of what it can and can't do:

Examples	Capabilities	Limitations
☀️	⚡	⚠️
"Explain quantum computing in simple terms" →	Remembers what user said earlier in the conversation	May occasionally generate incorrect information
"Got any creative ideas for a 10 year old's birthday?" →	Allows user to provide follow-up corrections	May occasionally produce harmful instructions or biased content
"How do I make an HTTP request in Javascript?" →	Trained to decline inappropriate requests	Limited knowledge of world and events after 2021

(ChatGPT OpenAI, 2023)

As you can see, ChatGPT can answer questions by providing information it has stored.

Where does ChatGPT's information come from?

Unlike other tools, such as search engines, ChatGPT does not search for information on the Internet. It has been pre-trained with information from a variety of sources, such as Wikipedia, a sample of books, and journal articles (Wampler, 2023).

While some of these sources could be good, such as a scholarly article, others may not be as good for a University assignment. For this reason, it is important to evaluate the information AI provides, as you would with any source, especially one you found online.

Read more about evaluating information in the Library's Successful Searching: Evaluating your Information module.
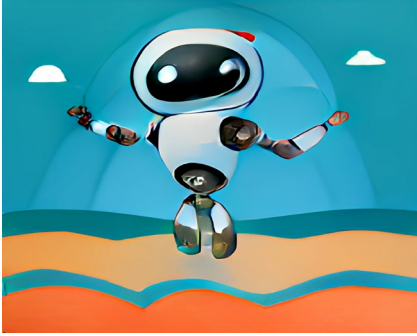
Using Generative AI in your assignment

In some instances, it may be acceptable to use generative AI like ChatGPT to plan your assignment.

Remember to check with your Subject Coordinator or tutor first.

Here are some ways generative AI can assist you in getting started with an assignment:

→ Provide an overview of information on an assignment topic
→ Suggest keywords and search terms to use in your Library search
→ Check the tone and style of your writing for written assessment tasks

Remember to fact-check!

All information should be **fact-checked**. It's up to you to check for accuracy. For example, ChatGPT sometimes provides you with information that is not correct (referred to as hallucinations).

Make sure that you are also using a variety of sound scholarly resources in your assignment.

Generative text AI can be a springboard into learning more about your topic or path of study, but you – the human in front of the technology – are still responsible for finding and using information to create original work. Assignments are assessing your ability to think. Your assignment should be planned and written by you and not by ChatGPT.
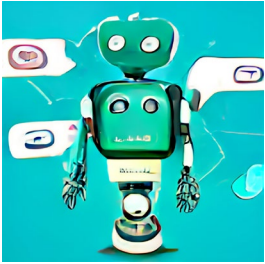
Read more in the Library's Guide to using AI Tools in Academic Writing and Research.

ChatGPT and Ethical study

Note that Turnitin can now detect text generated by artificial intelligence.

When using ChatGPT or other AI generative software, it is important to remember the principles of academic integrity. That is, you need to write and study honestly.

In other words, **don't use ChatGPT or similar AI to cheat!**

Cheating might include plagiarising (copying-and-pasting) answers ChatGPT gives to you, or even contract cheating – outsourcing the whole of your assignment to a generative AI tool instead of writing it yourself.

Don't pass off anything ChatGPT gives you as your own original research or thoughts.

If you have any doubts about how you are using artificial intelligence in your assignments, or you need help with referencing, make an appointment to speak to a Study Smart Librarian.

If you need a refresher on studying with integrity, complete the Library's Academic Integrity Module.

Remember to reference!

You can use AI to enhance your own learning experience, and not replace it. If you use it, you should reference it, show where you have used it with appropriate citing, and check-in with your tutor, teacher or lecturer if you have any questions about it.

The Library has an FAQ on citing ChatGPT that provides examples of how to cite ChatGPT in the main WSU referencing styles.

Expand your Artificial Intelligence Literacy!

With the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence tools and their integration into our personal and professional lives, it is important that you keep your knowledge of artificial intelligence current and adopt a critical-thinking lens. These skills can be defined as "artificial intelligence literacy".

Wheatley and Hervieux (2022: 66) have created the useful ROBOT test to aid in the memorization of key artificial intelligence literacies:

Reliability – how reliable is the information about the AI technology?

Objective – what is the goal or objective of the use of the AI technology?

Bias – what could create bias in the AI technology?

Ownership – who is the owner or developer of the AI technology?

Type – which subtype of AI is it? What kind of technology does it rely on?

Further reading:

Online Librarian (Mar 24 2023), Q. How do I reference content from ChatGPT and other AI Tools? Available at: https://answers.library.westernsydney.edu.au/faq/273171

Western Sydney University Library (2023) AI Tools in Academic Writing and Research: Using AI at University. Available at: https://subjectguides.library.westernsydney.edu.au/aitools/usingaiuni

References:

Open AI ChatGPT (personal communication, 21 February 2023). Retrieved from https://openai.com/models/

Wampler (5 January 2023) 'The Technology Behind Chat GPT-3'. Retrieved from: https://www.clearcogs.com/post/the-technology-behind-chat-gpt-3

Wheatley, A., & Hervieux, S. (2022). "Separating artificial intelligence from science fiction: Creating an academic library workshop series on AI literacy." In S. Hervieux & A. Wheatley (Eds.), *The Rise of AI: Implications and Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries.

Images:

Image 1 generated by OpenAI's DALL·E 2 (personal communication, 1st June 2023). Retrieved from https://labs.openai.com/

Image 2 generated by OpenAI's DALL·E 2 (personal communication, 1st June 2023). Retrieved from https://labs.openai.com/

Image 3 generated by OpenAI's DALL·E 2 (personal communication, 1st June 2023). Retrieved from https://labs.openai.com/

Image 4 generated by OpenAI's DALL·E 2 (personal communication, 1st June 2023). Retrieved from https://labs.openai.com/