

Ethical AI Use During the Writing Process

APSU Writing Center Handout

AI is a powerful tool that can be used to support your original ideas, not replace them. The way you prompt an AI chat influence how effectively it supports your thinking and writing process.

Prompts That Replace Your Thinking

Asking an AI to write these prompts for you takes your original voice away:

- Write a thesis for me.
- What should I write about?
- Can you write this paragraph?
- Fix this and rewrite it.

These prompts hand over the intellectual work. You may get a polished result, but you lose the learning.

Prompts That Strengthen Your Thinking

Asking an AI to assist by proofreading or making sure your ideas make sense is better:

- What assumptions am I making in this argument?
- What are strong counterarguments to this claim?
- What logical gaps do you notice?
- Ask me questions to help refine my thesis.
- Help me clarify this idea without rewriting it.

These prompts do not take away your original writing, rather they reflect and give feedback on it.

How AI Can Help You Grow

Using AI can help students challenge their reasoning process for writing, offer alternative points of view, and point out weaknesses in logic.

Before You Use AI

Give the chat context as to what you are working on such as assignment information and specify what you want reviewed. (grammar, organization, clarity, etc.).

Set boundaries when you ask it to review your writing at the end such as:

- Do not write any part of this for me.
- Only point out weaknesses.
- Do not rewrite my sentences.

Ask it to provide sources and make sure to double-check that they are real and accurate.

Example Productive Prompts

Is my paper organized in a logical way?

Do my transitions clearly connect with my ideas?

What major counterarguments should I address?

What areas of my argument need more evidence?

Using AI for Copyediting

Copyediting is the process of reviewing a text for clarity, consistency, grammar, punctuation, and appropriate word choice to ensure it is understandable to the reader.

Submit one paragraph at a time.

Short sections help AI focus and prevent you from feeling overwhelmed with too much feedback at once.

Be specific about what you want to review.

Examples: “Check grammar only.” “Do not rewrite anything.”

Correct the errors yourself.

After reviewing the feedback, revise the paragraph on your own.

When I asked AI to evaluate my ideas, how did its feedback change or clarify my thinking?

What differences did I notice between my original writing and the suggestions AI gave?

Did AI challenge my assumptions or introduce counterarguments I had not considered? If so, which ones?

What major counterarguments did AI suggest that I should address in my paper?

References

Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading. (2024, January 11). *What is copyediting?*

<https://www.ciep.uk/resource/what-is-copyediting.html#>

Ruppert, L. (2026). *Using AI for copyediting* [Unpublished worksheet]. Berry College Writing

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