

# Graduate Writing Workshop Series Fall 2025

## The Writing Process and Al

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## Workshop Overview

#### **CSUSB** Guidelines

- CSUSB Guidance on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Theses, Projects, and Dissertations
- Steps to take when you plan to use Al
- Risks of Using Al

#### Working With AI in APA & MLA

- APA vs MLA: Different academic styles, different approaches to AI
- Citing AI (quotes, paraphrasing, using images, graphs, tables, etc.)
- Disclosing work with AI (editing, translating, brainstorming, data analysis, etc.)
- Safeguarding academic integrity:
   Documentation and disclosure

## Introduction

- Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): Chat GPT, Google Assistant, Apps for Content Creation, Grammarly, Claude...
- Examples: Generating tables and figures, revising text, researching topics, etc.
- Graduate Council developed guidance on using AI in theses, projects and dissertations.
- Al in academia is new territory: Guidance will change in the future.

## **Current Policy:**

- Current guidance, "CSUSB Guidance on the Use of Generative AI in Theses, Projects, and Dissertations" on Graduate Studies website.
- "Students who plan to use generative AI tools in researching or writing their graduate thesis, project, or dissertation must always seek and document in writing unambiguous approval for the planned uses in advance from their supervisor(s) and supervisory committee."
- "Unauthorized use of generative AI tools for scholarly work at CSUSB may be considered an offense under the Policy on Upholding Research Integrity."

## **Implementation**

<u>Before</u> you use AI, meet with your advisor or committee chair and discuss your plans for using AI.

#### **Steps**

- 1. Before meeting, think about how/where you want to use Al
- 2. Discuss it with your advisor/committee chair
- 3. Get their approval in writing
- 4. Understand their expectations on how to cite or note use of AI in your paper

## Agreement and Transparency

- Each program is different: Some may have a form or process in place. Others will be approaching this topic for the first time.
  - Check with your program
  - Once you've reached an agreement, get it in writing.
     If your faculty member doesn't provide you with a written agreement, write it down yourself in a follow-up email.

"Just want to confirm what we discussed on (date). I believe we decided that I can use AI in my graduate project (describe). Please email me back and let me know if I got this right."

## Transparency in your Work

- Understand your program's expectations on how to cite or note the use of AI in your paper.
- Include this in your discussion with your faculty member and in your written agreement.
- See the Writing Center for guidelines.

## Why Do I Need Approval?

"Unauthorized use of generative AI tools for scholarly work at the CSUSB may be considered an offense under the Policy on Upholding Research Integrity."

It is the student's responsibility to initiate the conversation with faculty and get approval.

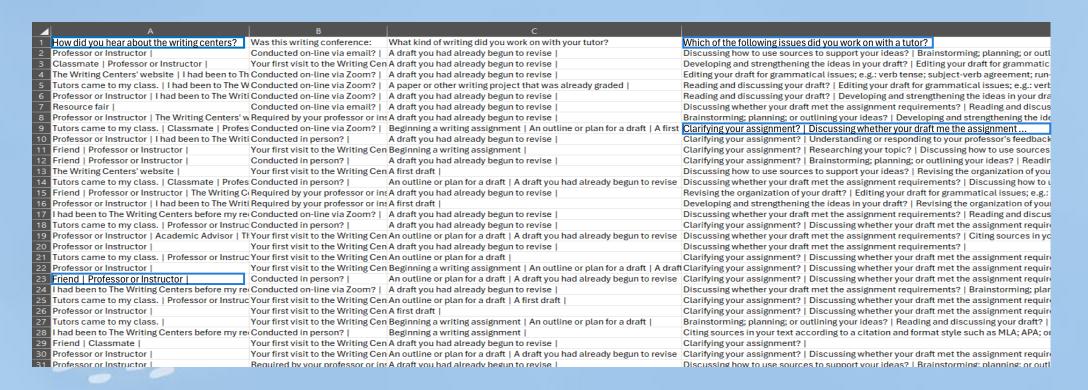
**Key Points:** Get approval in advance, document the agreement. In your written work, cite/note how you used AI. Be transparent with your faculty and your readers.

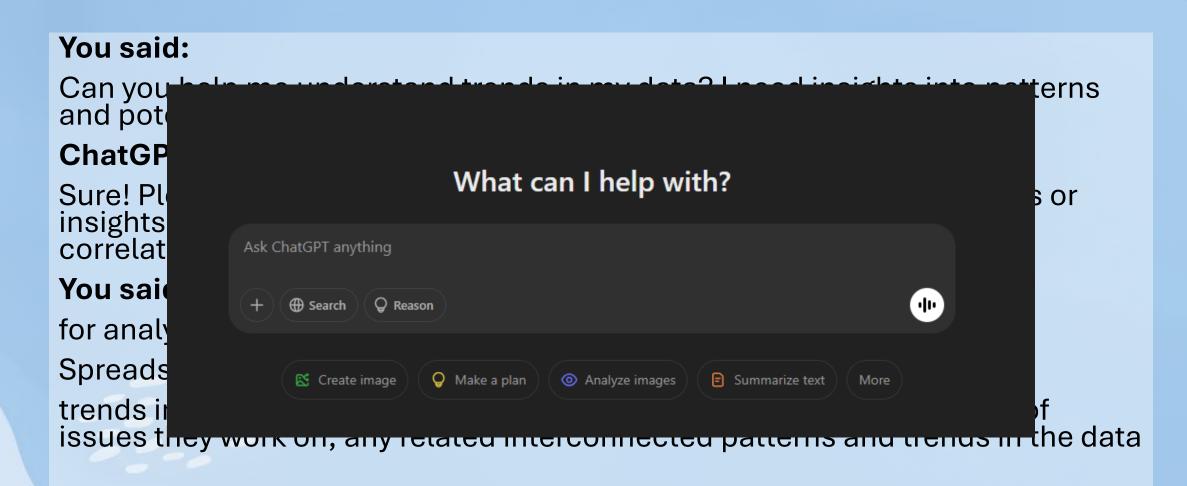
## Working with AI in APA & MLA

- APA vs MLA vs Chicago: Approaches differ!
- Technical Vocabulary:
  - o "Prompts" are the questions asked of Al.
  - o "Output" or "content" are terms for what Al Generates.
  - o "Hallucination" is when AI makes up information that is not true, e.g., attributing work to an author who did not write it or who does not exist.
- All work with AI of any kind must be disclosed!

## Using Al

Getting Started on Data Analysis





#### **ChatGPT said:**

Got it! I'll analyze your data for trends in how students hear about the center and the types of issues they work on. I'll also check for any interconnected patterns.

Let me first inspect the structure of your file to understand its contents.

The file contains a single sheet, "Sheet1." I'll now examine the first few rows to understand the structure and types of data available.

The dataset contains information on:

How students heard about the Writing Center

How the writing session was conducted

The type of writing they worked on

The writing issues they addressed during the session

Since some responses contain multiple selections (separated by "|"), I'll process them to analyze trends in:

- The most common ways students hear about the center
- The most common writing issues they work on
- Any correlations between how they heard about the center and the writing issues they worked on

I'll start by breaking down these responses and analyzing frequency distributions.

#### **Key Findings:**

#### **How Students Hear About the Writing Center**

#### 1. Top Sources:

- "Professor or Instructor" is the most common way students hear about the center, mentioned 88 times.
- Returning students who "had been to The Writing Centers before" is also a significant source (53 times).
- o "Tutors came to my class" (39 times) and "Friend" (31 times) are also notable.
- The Writing Centers' website has mixed reporting, with 20 direct mentions and 18 variations.
- Other sources like "Academic Advisor," "Flyer/Brochure," "Peer Mentor," and "Social Media" appear less frequently.

#### **Interconnections and Trends**

- 1. Students who hear about the center from a professor or class visit tend to focus on assignment clarity and structure:
  - o Professors might refer students struggling with assignment comprehension.
  - Classroom visits might encourage students to seek guidance on formatting and citation.
- 2. Returning students focus on advanced concerns like revising organization and strengthening ideas:
  - Likely indicates that once students become familiar with the center, they use it for deeper writing concerns.

## Working with AI in APA

- Work with AI within your writing process must be disclosed and cited.
- In your methods or introduction, specify how you worked with AI and where that work appears in your writing project.
- Writing for scholarly publication in APA must include the full output of material produced by AI within a section for supplementary materials/appendices.
- Al tools are evolving, and best practices and requirements regarding work with Al are developing and changing. To safeguard your academic integrity, keep the full output of all work with Al and diligently and transparently document how it was produced and integrated within your writing process.

## Citing AI in APA

- In-text Citation example:
  - When prompted with "How does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis apply to writers using AI?" ChatGPT produced, "If the AI has particular biases or tendencies in its language output, writers may unknowingly adopt or be influenced by these patterns in their own writing" (OpenAI, 2023; see Appendix B for the full transcript). While this accurately captures concerns around the adoption and influence of unrecognized biases, the "if" framing of such biases as being possible, rather than necessary, fails to acknowledge that all language is inflected with bias, including the sources of ChatGPT's training and clearly, its own advice.

## Citing AI in APA

#### Reference List Example: Citing Al

Author date of algorithm of version

The Name of the Model Serves as the Title (Version) [Description of model]

OpenAI. (2022). ChatGPT (Version 3.5.0) [Large language model].

source: where you can access the model

https://chat.openai.com/chat



## Working with AI in MLA

- Cite AI when quoting, paraphrasing, using images or other AI-created content.
- Acknowledge all uses of AI (e.g., editing, translating, brainstorming) in the text of your writing, in a note, or another location.
- Carefully vet sources that AI cites as they are often "hallucinated" or fake.
- Al tools are evolving, and best practices and requirements regarding work with Al are developing and changing. To safeguard your academic integrity, keep the full output of all work with Al and diligently and transparently document how it was produced and how it was integrated within your writing process.

## Citing AI in MLA

- In-text citation example:
  - When prompted with "How does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis apply to writers using AI?" ChatGPT produced, "If the AI has particular biases or tendencies in its language output, writers may unknowingly adopt or be influenced by these patterns in their own writing." While accurately capturing concerns around the adoption and influence of unrecognized biases, the "if" framing of such biases as being possible, rather than necessary, fails to acknowledge that all language is inflected with bias, including the sources of ChatGPT's training and clearly, its own advice.
  - \*\*Note that the prompt is mentioned, so it is not included in parentheses.
  - \*\*\*Al is not to be cited or referred to as an author.

## Citing AI in MLA

**Works Cited Example: Citing AI** 

\*Author: N/A Title of Source: Include the prompt and a description of its context

"How does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis apply to writers using AI?" prompt.

Title of Container Version Publisher Date Location

ChatGPT, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 9 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

\*AI is not to be cited or referred to as an author.

## Recap AI in MLA vs. APA (& CMS)

 MLA & CMS: Full disclosure and description of work with Al and Citation where appropriate (quoting, paraphrasing...)

• APA:

and

and

- Full disclosure and description of work with AI

- Citation where appropriate (quoting, paraphrasing...)
- Include an **appendix** with **all** prompts and content generated by AI (for work for publication, e.g., theses)
- Citation Details: To be, or not to be... an author?
  - APA & CMS: Al cited in same format as if it is an "author"
  - MLA: Al is NOT cited or referred to as if it is an author

## Risks of Using Al

- You are required to produce original research or an original work.
- You are responsible for the accuracy of your work. Al is not always right.
  - Can be biased
  - Can be plagiarized
  - List sources that don't exist
  - Planning future publication? Some publications don't accept AI generated work.
  - Privacy: Don't use AI to process confidential data
  - Legal repercussions for feeding copyrighted material into AI?
  - Providing data to an AI tool may complicate future attempts to enforce intellectual property protections.

## Risks of Using Al

- Risks of using AI without diligent vetting:
  - <a href="https://www.courthousenews.com/sanctions-ordered-for-lawyers-who-relied-on-chatgpt-artificial-intelligence-to-prepare-court-brief/">https://www.courthousenews.com/sanctions-ordered-for-lawyers-who-relied-on-chatgpt-artificial-intelligence-to-prepare-court-brief/</a>
- Who has records of your work with AI? Risk of changes to datakeeping and privacy policies and practices:
  - <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/05/business/23andme-dna-bankrupt.html?smid=url-share">https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/05/business/23andme-dna-bankrupt.html?smid=url-share</a>
- Risk of feeding copyrighted material into AI without permission:
  - https://hls.harvard.edu/today/does-chatgpt-violate-new-york-times-copyrights/
- There is no statute of limitations on issues of academic integrity
  - Publications are subject to retraction
    - https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2025/01/business-school-fraud-research/680669/
  - Degrees are subject to revocation
    - Degrees have been revoked at CSUSB for academic dishonesty

## Recap on Main Points

- Before using AI, discuss your plans with your thesis committee chair or advisor.
- Know your program's expectations for using Al.
- Once you come to an agreement with your faculty, get it in writing.
- If you are unsure of how to cite or document your use of AI, revisit your faculty or meet with the Graduate Writing Center.

# Questions?



### Thank You!

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