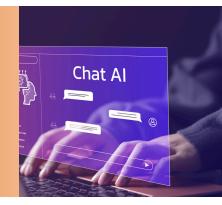# Tips For Identifying AI Generated Work

Chat AI

AI text detection tools can be unreliable, providing large numbers of false positives and false negatives. They can also be discriminatory against international students, giving false positives.

Easy solutions to identify AI-generated work do not exist. The best we can do is look for a variety of clues that a student may have used AI. Such clues include:

Ask to see their Grammarly version history

Grammarly now offers a version history for documents created in the app. Asking a student to provide a screenshot of their version history for a particular document, and the files that go along with each version can help in determining whether AI was used.

Writing style inconsistencies

The writing style or voice of a student's submissions may differ noticeably from one assignment to another, indicating that the different writing samples did not come from the same source.

Too perfect or too generic

An essay may seem too polished, or it may lack depth, demonstrating only a generic understanding of the topic.

Overly complex or overly simple language

AI-generated text will often seem a little too ... something. It may use language that seems unusually complex, phrases that seem a little over the top, explanations that seem overly simplified, dialects that seem a little too stereotypical.

Off-Topic content

Often, AI-generated assignment submissions will read well but miss the point of the assignment—lacking personal reflection, strong statements of opinion, course-specific references, or assignment-specific criteria.

Reference inaccuracies or invention

AI-generated content may confidently state things that are not true, include links to sites or references that don't exist, or use made-up quotes. You should check every single source that your students cite if you're concerned about, they're having used an AI text generation tool. Keep in mind that some AI tools can cite real sources.

Heavily formulaic text and unusual formatting

AI-generated content frequently uses headings followed by short explanatory paragraphs, lists, and distinct introduction and conclusion paragraphs. A good way to train yourself to spot AI patterns is to try completing the assignment using AI yourself, using multiple chatbots and a variety of prompts. You should also look for font changes or shifts in text alignment, heading, bullet, numbering and spacing throughout the submission.

Quiz the students on the content of their work

An effective way to confirm your suspicion is by quizzing the student on the content of their work. Ask them to explain complex points, the reasoning behind their arguments, or the meaning of specific words or phrases they used. If they are unable to provide satisfactory answers or seem confused by their own work, it could be an indication that they didn't write it themselves. Be aware, though, that students might also struggle with this if they're nervous or if they completed the assignment a while ago and no longer remember the specifics.