

What Students Need to Know About AI at MSVU

Generative AI, Ethics, and Academic
Expectations

Today's Session

AI, especially Generative AI (GenAI), is transforming education and daily life

The goal of this session:

- Provide information about academic expectations in relation to use of GenAI

What is Generative AI?

They are not 'thinking' machines

Generative AI (GenAI) are types of algorithms that create content (images, text, coding, etc) based on patterns and predictions taken from Large Language Models.

The MSVU Library has a guide with more information on how it works.

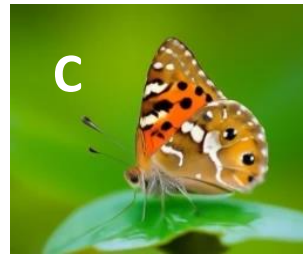
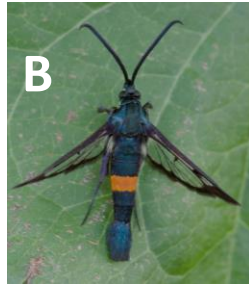
Round 1:

Which dog image(s) are AI generated?



Round 2:

Which moth image(s) are AI-generated?

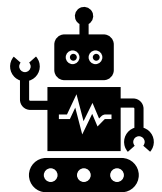


The First-Year University Experience

- You wouldn't be here if you already had subject expertise
- New learning experiences
- Learning is awkward
- There are no short cuts to learning how to do a new thing well
- Short cuts = Cutting short your learning

Subject expertise is critical!

- Gen AI does not always produce accurate output
- You are responsible for the Gen AI output you use
- The paradox:
You will be expected to use AI in many workplaces, but you need to develop a certain level of subject expertise before you can use Gen AI effectively



What AI use is permitted at MSVU?

- No single university-wide AI policy yet
- Each professor sets expectations in their syllabus AND individual assignments
- Inappropriate AI use = possible academic misconduct (cheating)
- Could result in grade penalties, academic probation, or worse

Academic Misconduct



Plagiarism
(2.2.23.1)



Cheating
(2.2.23.2)



Misrepresentation
(2.2.23.5)

Places to check for information about GenAI use

Moodle

Policy page

Announcements

Within activities

Instructions

Learning outcomes

Lecture

Within assignments

Assignments

Dropbox

Rubrics

Feedback

Check your course information



Course Outline



**Assignment
Description**



**Rubrics/Grading
Schemes**

Ask your professor



It is always okay to ask questions!

Asking clarifying questions in a professional manner is part of the learning process



Ask early and ask often

Expectations and requirements may change for different types of tasks



Ask at any step of the process!

1

Ask about the
course policy

2

Clarify the
conditions for use

3

Identify how to
document
your GenAI use
with examples

4

Discuss what to
do when you are
uncertain about
using GenAI

Never share personal information or intellectual property with GenAI



Your data



Institutional data



Research data



Resources from the library



Work by other students



Your assignments

Recap

- **Read** your course outline and assignment instructions
- **Communicate** with your professors
 - Ask early if unclear: 'Can I use AI tools in this assignment?'
- **Clarify** scope of use
 - e.g. generate topics vs. full assignment drafting
- **Writing Centre tutors** can help you understand assignment expectations and help you start—and finish
- **Show transparency:** always cite AI when used
- **Respect boundaries:** if it's not allowed, don't use it

Consult the *Generative AI for MSVU Students Guide*.

AI (Generative Artificial Intelligence)

Search this Guide

Search

What is Generative AI? >

Generative AI for MSVU Faculty >

Generative AI for MSVU Students >

Types of Generative AI

Using Generative AI

Evaluating Generative AI

Ethical Issues with Generative AI

Academic Integrity & Citations >

Guidance on Policy & Procedures >

Generative AI for MSVU Students

Important Notice: This section of the AI Guide is intended for students. Faculty should see [Generative AI for MSVU Faculty](#).

Always consult your professor before using any form of AI (ChatGPT, Grammarly, Gemini, etc.) for your coursework, and be sure to ask **what exactly is permitted** for a specific assignment. If you have permission to use AI in your work, [you need to cite](#) the tool you have used.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to machines, especially computer systems, that mimic aspects of human intelligence like learning, problem solving, and decision making.

The landscape of AI is rapidly evolving, with significant impacts on research and education.

The video below provides a brief introduction to how AI technology works.

 What is Artificial Intelligence? | Quick Learner

- libguides.msvu.ca/ai/students



Temptations of Using AI

- Saves time
- Bypasses **learning** steps (having an idea, creating a style, organizing ideas, researching your subject)
 - These steps are crucial to learning and are part of what you are paying to learn

Limitations & Risks of GenAI

- **Hallucinations:** AI can confidently generate false information.
- **Bias:** Outputs reflect biases in training data.
- **Privacy:** Sensitive input may be stored/used.
- **Overreliance:** Weakens independent critical thinking.
- **Academic Misuse:** Submitting AI work as your own.
- **Negative** environmental Impact

Ethical & Responsible AI Use

- Treat AI like a tool, not an authority
- Verify all outputs with reputable sources
- Use AI to support—not replace—your work (and learning)
- Always cite AI contributions when used

AI and Citations

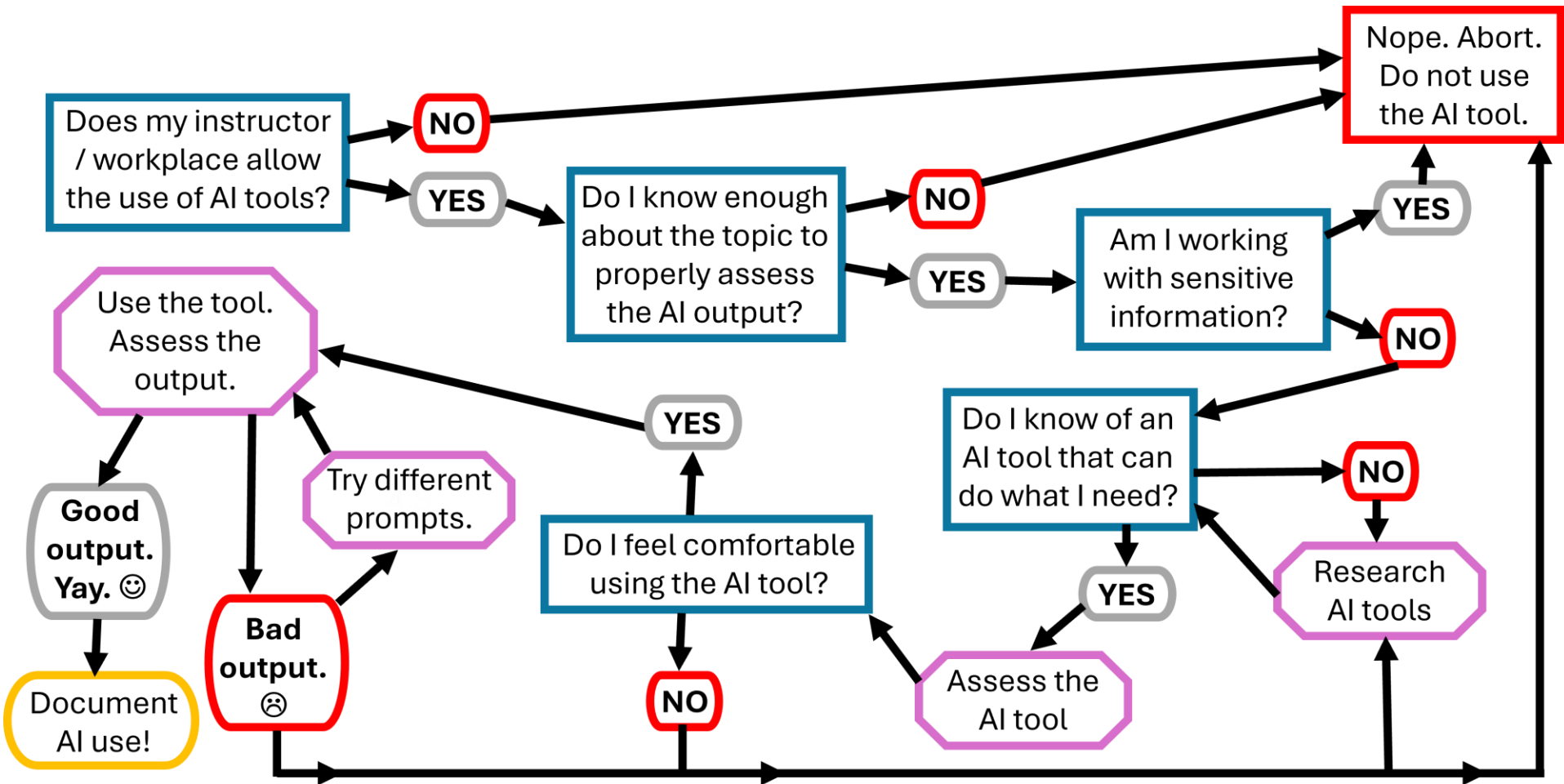
- Academic writers **SHOW**—don't hide—their AI tool use
- When use is permitted, you **CITE** a Gen AI tool like any other source, using a standard citation style (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) *new in 2026*
- You'll **LEARN** how to cite and can [see examples](#) as models to copy at the **Writing Centre** and **Library Guides**.
- This prevents plagiarism penalties: **INTEGRITY**

Looking Ahead

- AI tools will become more integrated.
- Policies will evolve—expect clearer guidelines in the future.
- Your responsibility: use AI transparently, ethically, and within course rules.

Questions to ask yourself with the use of an AI tool

(Non-exhaustive list)



Today's take aways

- At MSVU, professors decide AI rules in each of their assignments.
- Always ask, always cite, always think critically.
- Unsure about how to write or do research without the aid of AI? The Writing Center and the Library are here for you!

Contact us

The Writing Centre

- Drop in! EMF 203 (near McCain link).
- Email: writing@msvu.ca
- Book an appointment through our webpage:



msvu.ca/writing

The Library

- Drop by! EMF main floor
- Email: library@msvu.ca
- Book an appointment through our webpage:



msvu.ca/library