

Course policy on the use of GAI in communication tasks

In our course, the use of GAI to assist in writing and communication falls under [MIT's Academic Integrity policy](#). That means that copying, partially or entirely, any material, including material generated by GAI, without acknowledgment of the source will be considered plagiarism. In addition, we will observe the following distinction between GAI-assisted writing and GAI-generated writing¹:

- **GAI-assisted writing** includes using GAI as a collaborative tool for research, reviewing the literature on your project topic, summarizing and synthesizing related work, brainstorming and outlining, and proofreading and editing. With GAI-assisted writing, you must cite your GAI use and the sources from which GAI has drawn its text. You are expected to make intentional choices about the form and content of your work and to maintain sole responsibility for what is communicated by that work.
- **GAI-generated writing** is writing generated by a GAI tool with little or no involvement from yourself as an author. As the author of a text, your own choices are expected to determine the purpose, scope, and shape of your work; if you cannot articulate these choices, you likely have not authored the text.

Core learning objectives in this course are developing your technical expertise as a roboticist, practicing critical thinking in writing and oral communication, and learning to communicate about and explain your work to your professional community and the public. For that reason, GAI-generated writing and oral presentations will not be allowed. You are, however, permitted to practice GAI-assisted writing provided you acknowledge your use of GAI and/or the sources it draws on.

The goal of this policy is to allow you to leverage the power of GAI to assist in your learning, research and communication processes while maintaining ethical research and writing practices.

Work that violates the terms of this policy will be handled according to [MIT's Procedures for Dealing with Academic Misconduct in Research and Scholarship](#).

¹ Adapted from Marc Watkins, "The AI Wolf That Education Must Face," Aug. 10, 2025, https://marcwatkins.substack.com/p/the-ai-wolf-that-education-must-face?img=https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F4e42d400-c8dd-41ee-ab9c-1cbad64d6359_1280x720.png&open=false

Disclosure Requirement²

Use of GAI assistance in the production of text, images, figures and code must be disclosed in the *Acknowledgments* section. In your disclosure statement, you must:

- Identify the AI system used.
- List the sections of your paper that include the content that was produced with the assistance of GAI.
- Provide a brief description of the level at which the AI system was used.
- If applicable, include a reference to the source or sources used by the AI tool.

You may use the following sample disclosure in the *Acknowledgments* section:

The author(s) used [AI Tool Name] for [specific purpose, e.g., language editing, literature review, figure design] in the [section name, e.g., abstract]. All content was reviewed and edited by the author(s), who take full responsibility for the final work.

References to related work must be formatted in accordance with the guidelines of the [IEEE EDITORIAL STYLE MANUAL FOR AUTHORS](#), 2024, using consecutive numbers in square brackets linked to a list of *References*.

If you have any questions about edge cases, please contact your communication instructor.

The table³ below lists acceptable and not acceptable use of GAI in your work on communication tasks:

Acceptable	Acceptable with attribution	Not acceptable
GAI Ideation assistance	GAI Writing Assistance	GAI Generated Content
- Use of GAI to explore possible topics for the design project. - Use of an AI assistant for suggestions on how to make improvements to your writing and oral presentations.	- Use of GAI to search for and summarize related work. You may use GAI-generated summaries of related papers with attribution. When you use GAI to review and summarize related work, make sure to check the generated summary for accuracy against the abstract, introduction and	- Use of GAI to generate any portion of your text. - Use of AI to generate the sections that characterize your approach and report and interpret your experimental results.

² Source: <https://newauthors.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/video-tutorials/?the-video=12>

³ Watkins, "The AI Wolf."

	conclusion of the paper in question. - Use of GAI to proofread and revise your writing. Editorial assistance from GAI must be disclosed in <i>Acknowledgements</i>. - Acknowledged use of GAI as a process tool in the design of figures, tables, captions and visual elements in the project video. You are responsible for what your visuals communicate: any misrepresentation of results that originates with an AI tool will be your responsibility.	
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