



NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SOCIETY

<http://csus.edu/ai>



The Lazy Prompt Test

Why Conduct Lazy Prompt Tests?

- **Identify Low Effort:** Learn how susceptible your tasks/evaluations are to AI-created answers that lack substantial human involvement or analytical skills.
- **Be ready for the next semester:** Stop trying to police the use of AI and stay ahead of your students.

How to Conduct Lazy Prompt Tests

- **Copy and paste:** Copy the assignment descriptions from your syllabus or Canvas shell, paste it into ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or MS Copilot; ask to produce a paper or another written assignment.
- **Evaluate the output:** Apply your own grading criteria to the output; grade the assignment.
 - If it looks like a B or better product, you have a problem. It is not a cause for panic, just a reason to revise either your assignment, or the evaluation rubric, or both.
 - If AI fails the test, and produces a C or worse product, you do not have a problem, and may continue using the assignment as is. It is already cheating-resistant.

What to do next?

- **Revise:** If AI alone, without any human input can beat your assignment, consider creating a [cheating-resistant assignment](#) and a [cheating-resistant rubric](#). Use the linked guidelines as resources only; keep in mind, they will look differently for each discipline.
- **Introduce students to AI, explain what they should do:** If you do not do it, the most resourced, often more middle-class students will use AI and avoid being caught. The more minoritized, disadvantaged students will fall further behind. Teach everyone how to use AI; it is the only fair option. There is no reliable way of determining if a student used AI or not.
- **Raise expectations:** Focus on developing skills such as creative, original, critical, and discerning thinking, real-life problem-solving, and ethical reasoning, which are less susceptible to displacement by AI.
- **Keep tweaking:** Regularly update and refine assignments to keep pace with advancements in AI capabilities, ensuring they remain challenging and relevant.

This approach safeguards academic integrity and fosters essential skills for the AI age instruction. By updating our methods and teaching equitable AI use, we prepare students to thrive in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

April 15, 2024. Please note: all NIAIS recommendations are living documents. We improve them as we receive feedback from users. Save the link, not the document.