



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
IN SOCIETY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO**
<http://csus.edu/ai>

Cheating-Resistant Assignment

1. Recognize the AI Challenge:

- Acknowledge the growing use of AI in academic settings.
- Recognize the difficulty in differentiating between AI-generated and student-generated content.

2. Revise your assessment rubric to Emphasize Critical and Original Thinking:

- Run the “Lazy prompt test” of the assignment, show results to students. Explain why the output is not good enough to meet your expectations.
- Shift focus from traditional writing to fostering critical, original, and discerning thinking.
- Assess students on their ability to create complex, nuanced prompts for AI tools.

3. Require students to use AI and teach them how to do it:

- Explain the difference between a lazy and a rich prompt.
- Practice good prompting in class.
- Teach students how to critically evaluate AI-generated text.
- Include evaluation of sources, argumentation, and relevance in the assessment.

4. Encouraging Ethical AI Use:

- Educate students on the responsible use of AI in academic work.
- Discuss the importance of academic integrity and ethical considerations in using AI tools.

5. Continuous Assignment Review:

- Regularly update and refine assignments to stay ahead of evolving AI capabilities.
- Solicit feedback from students to ensure the effectiveness and fairness of the approach.
- Seek evidence of student growth beyond their self-report.
- Watch for foundational skills atrophy; if evident, develop assignments to prevent it.

Definitions and examples

Lazy Prompt:

Definition: A lazy prompt is a basic or overly simplistic instruction given to an AI, often copied from a syllabus. These prompts do not require critical thinking or personal input and produce poor results.

Example: "Write an essay on climate change."

Rich Prompt:

Definition: A rich prompt is a detailed and specific instruction designed to guide AI in generating more thoughtful, nuanced, and high-quality responses. It typically includes:

- A unique idea or perspective.
- A specific job or purpose for the response, such as elucidating, providing counterarguments, or giving feedback.
- A particular genre, role, or audience, and a description of style.
- Several iterations of a prompt.
- A combination of original and recycled input (previously written relevant texts).

Example: Request an AI to, "Compose an undergraduate course paper that argues why the impact of climate change on urban development might necessitate the relocation of some coastal cities. Focus on the economic implications, including the rising cost of disaster preparedness and the diminishing tax base. Critically address at least three counterarguments, including the high cost of relocation compared to defensive strategies, and the potential to slow down global warming. Reuse some of the data from my blog and the report (has to be explicitly cited)."

Foundational Skill Atrophy:

Definition: Skill atrophy refers to the gradual deterioration or weakening of foundational skills due to underuse or reliance on external tools like AI. Foundational skills are those that are needed to develop higher order thinking.

Example: A student who consistently relies on AI to construct coherent arguments may lose the ability to create new, original arguments. Therefore, students must be given assignments that involve critical examinations of arguments offered by AI.

Ethical Use of AI:

Definition: Ethical use of AI in an academic context means using AI tools responsibly, with honesty and integrity. It involves using AI as an aid for learning and development, not for misrepresenting one's own abilities.

Example: Ethically using AI would be a student employing AI to understand difficult concepts, generate ideas, or get feedback on their work, while ensuring that their final submission reflects their understanding and effort. Unethical use would be passing off AI-generated work as entirely their own without significant personal contribution or understanding.