CONNORS WRITING CENTER · UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Should I Use Gen AI for My Assignment?

A decision tree to help you think through AI use ethically and intentionally.

Adapted from the Wilfrid Laurier University Writing Centre's AI Decision Tree · Updated Fall 2026

Available as a PDF handout at unh.edu/writing

No matter what you're working on, the Writing Center can help!

Do I understand my instructor's course policy on AI use?

NO →

Stop & Check
Check your syllabus. If the policy isn't clear, ask your instructor or TA before proceeding.

YES ↓

Do I understand how gen AI works, how it's trained, and how it functions?

NOT REALLY →

Learn First
Explore UNH's AI literacy resources before using AI for academic work.
unh.edu/teaching-learning-resource-hub/delivery/generative-artificial-intelligence

YES ↓

Am I aware of the ethical issues associated with gen AI?

NO →

Read Up First
Review UNH's Academic Integrity Policy and consider ethical issues: bias, privacy, and academic honesty.
catalog.unh.edu/srrr/student-policies-regulations/academic-integrity/

YES ↓

Given the ethical concerns, does using AI align with my values as a learner?

NO →

Go Analogue
Complete your assignment without AI. The Writing Center can help!

> If AI use is required and you're uncomfortable, you have the right to explain your concerns to your instructor and ask about alternatives. The Writing Center can help you prepare for that conversation.

YES ↓

Do I already have mastery of the academic skills needed to complete this assignment?

NO →

Build Skills First
Using AI before developing the underlying skill can shortcut your learning. Book an appointment with the Writing Center!
unh.mywconline.com

YES ↓

You're ready to use AI thoughtfully.

Use AI as a **tool to support** — not replace — your work. Document all AI use per your instructor's policy. Keep your voice, your argument, and your thinking at the center.

RESOURCES

- **Book a CWC Appointment** — unh.mywconline.com
- **UNH Academic Integrity Policy** — catalog.unh.edu/srrr/student-policies-regulations/academic-integrity/
- **UNH DeepThought AI Platform** — deepthought.usnh.edu
- **UNH AI Teaching & Learning Resources** — unh.edu/teaching-learning-resource-hub