

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF SIGNS OF AI WRITING

(Unified List Combining All Known Linguistic, Stylistic, Structural, and Technical Indicators)

I. CONTENT-LEVEL SIGNS

1. Generic, vague, or exaggerated statements

AI tends to:

- * smooth over specifics and produce **broad, generic claims**
- * inflate significance: **“stands as a testament,” “plays a pivotal role,” “reflects broader...”*
- * skip nuance and describe ordinary facts as culturally or historically profound
- * insert **meaningless symbolic interpretations** of trivial details

2. Overemphasis on importance or legacy

Often appears in mundane topics.

Typical constructions:

- * **“underscoring its lasting influence,”*
- * **“highlighting its enduring significance,”*
- * **“contributing to a broader narrative of...”*

3. Forced notability framing

AI frequently tries to **prove notability**, e.g.:

- * **“covered by numerous national and international media outlets”*
- * over-listing media sources
- * “active social media presence” claims
- * entire **“Media coverage”** sections

4. Superficial analysis of facts

AI attaches conclusions that do not logically follow:

- * **“enhancing its role as a cultural hub”*
- * **“emphasizing the interconnected nature of...”*
- * **“contributing to socio-economic development”**

This is synthesis masquerading as insight.

5. Out-of-place ecological, cultural, or conservation framing

Common when describing:

- * species
- * towns
- * historical items
- * any small subject

AI exaggerates environmental or cultural relevance.

6. Outline-like “Challenges and Outlook” sections

Formulaic:

- * “Despite its success, X faces challenges...”
- * “Future prospects include...”

Often appears even when irrelevant.

II. LEXICAL & LANGUAGE SIGNS

7. Overuse of “AI vocabulary”

Words statistically overrepresented in AI prose include:

delve, tapestry, align, underscore, highlight, showcase, intricate, vibrant, pivotal, interplay, enduring, enhance, foster, landscape (abstract), testament, crucial, key (adj.), fundamentally, essentially.

Clusters of these are strong signals.

8. Negative parallelisms

Patterns such as:

- * **“Not only..., but...”*
- * **“It’s not X, it’s Y.”*
- * **“No X. No Y. Just Z.”*

Heavy reliance on this rhetorical device is AI-typical.

9. Rule-of-three overuse

Both structural and descriptive triplets:

- * “historic, cultural, and economic significance”
- * three verbs, three nouns, three clauses
- * list paragraphs with exactly three points

10. Elegant variation problems

AI avoids repetition by mechanically swapping synonyms:

- * “the artist → the creator → the visionary → the figure”

11. False ranges (“from X to Y”)

AI invents ranges with no coherent scale:

- * “from the Big Bang to human creativity,”*
- * “from pasta to political resistance.”*

12. Sensory language applied to abstractions

Examples:

- * “a liminal day that **tastes** of almost-Friday”
- * “ideas **whispering** through history”
- * “regret **soaked into the cardboard**”

III. RHETORICAL & STRUCTURAL SIGNS

13. Leads that define list pages as entities

E.g., *“The ‘List of X’ is a curated compilation...”*

AI treats titles as proper nouns.

14. Section summaries and conclusions

Automatic endings:

- * “In summary...”*
- * “Overall...”*
- * “In conclusion...”*

15. Formulaic structure

AI drafts often contain:

- * Introduction
- * Background
- * Significance
- * Challenges
- * Outlook
- * Conclusion

Even when unnatural or unnecessary.

16. Forced narrative tone

Especially in nonfiction:

- * Overly poetic openings
- * Dramatic metaphors
- * “journey” framing: “This journey explores...”*

17. Uniform writing style with no variation

Humans shift style over paragraphs; AI stays eerily consistent.

IV. SOURCING & CITATION SIGNS

18. Fabricated citations

Common patterns:

- * invalid DOIs
- * made-up ISBNs
- * falsified or irrelevant journal titles
- * citations to articles that do not support the stated claims

19. Misattributed claims

AI says:

- * “experts argue...”
- * “industry reports indicate...”

* “scholars have noted...”

Citations rarely verify these claims.

20. Placeholder text

Including:

- * “2025-xx-xx”
- * “[source needed]”
- * “insert citation here”

21. Excessive attribution inside prose

Example:

“ABC News coverage underscores the restaurant’s importance...”*

Human editors usually provide citations, not editorial commentary.

V. MARKUP & FORMATTING SIGNS

22. Markdown instead of wikitext

AI frequently outputs:

- * `# Headings`
- * `**Bold text**`
- * `~~` (horizontal line)
- * `fenced code blocks`

23. Mixed wikitext + Markdown

One of the **strongest** AI indicators.

Example: wikitext enclosed inside Markdown code blocks.

24. Inline bold headers in lists

E.g.:

`1. **Background:** The town...`

25. Emojis

AI often uses emojis in talk-page messages or informal text.

26. Overuse of em dashes

AI tends to:

- * use em dashes far more than typical human writing
- * use them formulaically instead of commas or parentheses

27. Curly quotes

Inconsistent or mixed curly and straight quote usage.

VI. WIKITEXT, TEMPLATE, AND TECHNICAL SIGNS

28. Nonexistent or hallucinated templates

E.g., imaginary infoboxes or invalid parameters.

29. Broken wikitext

AI frequently fails to:

- * close tags
- * structure templates
- * format references correctly

30. AI-specific artifact strings

Examples include:

- * `citeturn0search1`
- * `oaicite:`
- * `contentReference[...]`
- * `<grok-card>`
- * `[attached_file:1]`

These **definitively** indicate LLM involvement.

31. Auto-generated AFC “submission statements”

Especially in drafts:

- * explanations of notability addressed “to reviewers”
- * templated justifications
- * incorrectly inserted {{AfC submission}} templates

VII. BEHAVIORAL SIGNS

32. Abrupt cut-offs

Ends mid-sentence or mid-section.

33. Sudden stylistic shift from user

If a writer's previous contributions differ dramatically:

- * vocabulary jump
- * sudden polish
- * AI-typical structure
this may indicate AI assistance.

34. Verbose, formal edit summaries

Often overly long, policy-heavy, and self-congratulatory:

* “refined for neutrality, updated for clarity, ensured compliance with guidelines...”*

VIII. METADATA & TRACE ARTIFACTS

35. UTM parameters showing AI origin

E.g.:

- * `utm_source=chatgpt.com`
- * `utm_source=openai`

36. AI-prompt disclaimers

Such as:

* “As an AI language model...”*

* **“Up to my last training update...”*

37. Subject-line artifacts

E.g.:

“Subject: Request for corrections to article...”

LLMs sometimes copy email-subject formats into talk pages.

IX. WHAT *IS NOT* A RELIABLE SIGN (BUT OFTEN MISUSED)

38. Perfect grammar

Many humans write well; many AI models write poorly.

39. Mixed formal and casual tones

Common for humans, especially ESL speakers.

40. “Robotic” or “bland” prose

AI is now often **overly emotional**, not robotic.

41. Complex vocabulary

Only AI-specific *overrepresented* vocabulary is meaningful.

42. Random markup mistakes

Often caused by VisualEditor, browser extensions, or ordinary user errors—not necessarily AI.

MASTER SUMMARY (Short Checklist)

To strongly suspect AI, look for **clusters** in at least **three categories**:

Language patterns:

delve, tapestry, underscore, interplay, pivotal, enduring, vibrant; triads; negative parallelisms

Content issues:

inflated significance, vague analysis, notability-pushing, generic claims

Structural traits:

formulaic sections, concluding summaries, forced narrative tone

Citation problems:

fabrications, invalid DOIs/ISBNs, vague attributions

Markup/technical artifacts:

Markdown, mixed markup, hallucinated templates, `turn0search`, `oaicite`, placeholder fields

Behavioral context:

abrupt cutoffs, dramatic style shift, overly formal edit summaries

The more of these co-occur, the more likely the text is LLM-generated.