

# Don't lose your voice! Writing in the age of AI

By C-HUB Center for Professional Development & Inclusive Excellence

Although the workshop initially appeared to focus on how artificial intelligence can be used as a tool to improve writing and produce better academic work, the presentation ultimately centered more on the disadvantages of relying on large language models (LLMs) for writing.

At one point, the speaker encouraged the audience to reflect on the differences between human writing and AI-generated writing. After a brief comparison, most participants agreed that AI tends to follow a predictable and formulaic structure (usually consisting of an introduction, a few main points, and a final summary) aiming to produce concise and neatly organized texts. Human writing, on the other hand, is far more diverse and expressive. Each person has a unique way of communicating ideas, often conveying emotions, intentions, and a personal touch that makes every piece of writing distinct.

The speaker also discussed the four main components of writing: voice, style, word choice, and tone or stance.

- Voice refers to the persona or rhythm that comes through in a text, essentially, the personality the writer projects.
- Style is the set of techniques that carry that voice, such as syntax, diction, and sentence flow.
- Word choice and tone influence how the message is perceived and how readers emotionally connect to the text.

Among these, voice is especially important because it gives individuality to writing. It is what allows readers to feel that there is a human presence behind the words.

Artificial intelligence, however, tends to “flatter the voice.” It often reuses the same verbs, follows repetitive sentence patterns, and prioritizes clarity and grammatical accuracy over emotional depth or originality. While this can make AI-generated texts easy to read and structurally sound. Humans, in contrast, write not only to inform but also to express and connect, often breaking linguistic conventions to achieve a particular tone or feeling.

Interestingly, even though the presenter’s intention was to highlight what is lost when using AI, and to argue that human writing is inherently superior, the outcome of the discussion revealed a more nuanced reality. When participants compared examples of human-written and AI-written texts, many admitted that they preferred the AI-generated versions. These texts were clearer, more coherent, emphasized key ideas more effectively, and avoided unnecessary repetition.

In the end, the workshop unintentionally demonstrated both sides of the argument: while AI may lack the emotional richness and individuality of human writing, it excels at producing well-structured, readable, and efficient texts. This contrast invites an important reflection: that the best writing in the future may come not from choosing between human or AI authorship, but from learning how to combine both strengths thoughtfully.