**How to detect signs, and handle Plagiarism / AI usage in students’ submissions**  
Tips and Reflections from a CS3520 TA

Hi everyone, I’m Tianye and past TA for CS3520 Programming in C++, summer 2025. This is near the end of semester, so I would just like to take some time to reflect on my TA work on assignment grading. And in this document, I will summarize my experiences, and provide a few tips, insights and strategies on approaching AI and Plagiarism issues, to the best of my knowledge.

**Course Policy**  
To begin with, let us examine the Course Policy related to AI and plagiarism. This will serve as a basis for grading considerations. Please note this screenshot is from this semester and might subject to change in the future, so you need to check out the newest Syllabus and the FAQ section.

Firstly, let’s look at parts regarding plagiairsim

❌ Cut and paste code from some other source (e.g., Wikipedia, Generative AI i.e., ChatGPT and others, or the random blog returned by a Google search) into your fil.

❌ Ask members of the wider community (e.g., StackOverflow, friends who took this class previously) to solve your homework problems for you

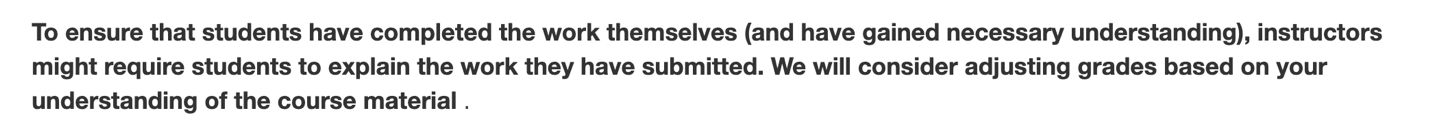
❌e make electronic or printed versions of your solutions available to another student.

❌e ask members of the wider community (e.g., StackOverflow, friends who took this class previously) to solve your homework problems for you

A close-up of a text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

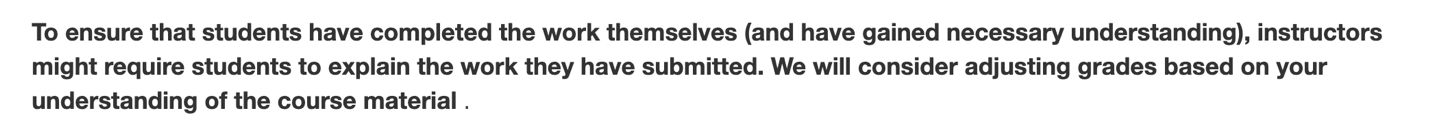
In short, it is also not allowed for any assignments



Okay, if we went through the process, and have found signs of potential AI usage, what’s next?

**Emailing Student and Addressing the Issue**

Once we accumulated reasonable evidence, according to the policy we should try contacting the individual student with suspicion.



To contact them, we can write an Alert Email. The exact format and wording are for your own decision and depend on the situation. It would be nice to have –  
1: Quotation of the course policy, especially regarding parts student might violated.  
2: Your available timing, and the platform for the confirmation meeting (i.e. Teams)  
3: All the evidence so far (i.e. screenshot of detection software result, selected parts of student’s code)

Once you notified the student via email or other forms, we can wait and prepare for the verification meeting. If you are unsure about the email draft wording or the course policy, you can also consult the professor or other TAs with details.

This is the first email I’ve sent on 6/20, I’ve included the policies and reasonable suspicion details.

A screenshot of a black and white box

AI-generated content may be incorrect.However, 4 days later, when grading the same students final project work,   
A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

To make the communication more effective and efficient, and prevent students to ignore it and delay response,

Other Minor Signs and Details

A screenshot of a phone

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Firstly we can have Zero-GPT: <https://www.zerogpt.com/>

For the none-code submission in the document:   
  
Warnings + Heads up

The inaccuracy of AI detection software

As mentioned earlier,

What’s more, formatted

Not always work

Additionally, please keep in mind that

We should be careful about our choice and words,

Before the meeting:  
  
Next Steps

