

University of Connecticut

Is using AI considered plagiarism?

Exploring the nuances of AI (artificial intelligence).

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The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed the landscape of various fields, including education and professional work environments. As an engineering student and Network Security Engineer, I have been captivated by the impact of AI on productivity, accuracy, and time management. However, the increasing use of AI in academic and professional settings has sparked a debate about the relationship between AI and plagiarism. This paper aims to explore the question, "Is using AI considered plagiarism?" by analyzing the definition of plagiarism and examining the capabilities of AI. The inquiry stems from my personal experience as a college student and a professional, as I seek to understand how the utilization of AI can affect the authenticity and originality of my work. To answer this question, it is necessary to delve into the concept of plagiarism and explore the possibilities and limitations of AI in facilitating tasks.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, plagiarism is defined as "the process or practice of using another person's ideas or work and pretending that it is your own." The critical point of this definition is that it involves taking someone else's ideas or work. Plagiarism is a severe offense as it involves stealing someone's creativity and intellectual property without giving credit or recognition. The origins of the term "plagiarism" can be traced back to the Latin word *plagium*, which means "kidnapping." Thus, in modern society that values creativity and originality, plagiarism is considered a serious crime.

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While plagiarism involves taking a person's ideas, the question arises whether using AI-generated ideas can be considered plagiarism. According to the Oxford dictionary, a person is defined as a human being that is an individual, which excludes machines like AI. Therefore, using AI to perform tasks cannot be considered plagiarism, as it is merely a tool that provides information based on the input given to it. However, this raises some unanswered questions such as whether AI-generated ideas can be considered original thought, and how AI actually works. We will explore the relationship between AI and plagiarism, including the concept of original thought and the role of AI in facilitating tasks.

We established that plagiarism involves stealing one's thoughts or ideas. However, can this apply to artificial intelligence (AI)? In my search for answers, I scoured the internet and consulted books from the UConn library on AI, consciousness, thoughts, and ideas. The opinions were divided, so I decided to ask the AI itself: Can you have thoughts or ideas? Can you have original thoughts? and this is what it responded to me. "As an AI language model, I don't have subjective experiences or consciousness, but I can generate responses based on the patterns and correlations present in the large datasets used to train me. Therefore, I don't have thoughts or ideas in the way that humans do. However, I can provide outputs that may seem like original thoughts or ideas because I have been trained on a massive amount of data, which allows me to recognize and generate patterns and connections that may not have been explicitly programmed into me. In that sense, my responses can be considered "original" in the sense that they are not simply pre-programmed responses to specific inputs. However, it's important to note that my responses are based on patterns and correlations found in the training data, and I do not have true

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creativity or consciousness.” This statement raises some concerns as it suggests that the AI relies on data sets to generate responses, much like how humans use past knowledge to craft responses.

Regardless of whether AI considers it to be original thought or not, the question remains: is utilizing AI technology considered plagiarism? As previously mentioned, AI gathers information from the internet, utilizing the concepts and ideas of other creators to form a new work. While this does not necessarily constitute plagiarism, it involves merging various materials to produce something new. However, educational institutions have discovered that some students are utilizing ChatGPT to complete homework and assignments. To address this issue, an AI system has been developed to detect AI-generated work. While the question remains focused on whether the use of AI is considered plagiarism, the conclusion is that it is not. Nevertheless, employing AI-generated content raises questions regarding authenticity and originality in educational and professional settings. Students and employees are frequently required to use available resources to excel, but using AI-generated content may raise concerns about the work's originality and authenticity. Therefore, it is crucial to consider the task's purpose and ethics when determining whether to use AI-generated content.

I have utilized ChatGPT both in the past and present, discovering ways to leverage it for my own advantage. Specifically, I use it to streamline code curation for my job. What would ordinarily consume two days of my time now takes only two hours after integrating the code and

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ensuring that it fits smoothly into the existing body of work. Additionally, I rely on AI to check my spelling and grammar for school assignments, and I even use dictation software to write papers. AI is ubiquitous in our society, with Alexa for Echo users, Siri for iPhone users, Hey Google for Google users, and Cortana for Windows users.

To summarize, the utilization of AI in content creation is becoming progressively widespread in modern society. Although AI can enhance productivity and efficiency, it lacks the ability to generate original ideas or thoughts in the same manner as humans. Hence, AI-generated content cannot be categorized as plagiarism in the same manner as content created by humans. Nevertheless, it is crucial to contemplate the ethical implications of using AI-generated content and to verify that its use aligns with the purpose of the assignment or task at hand.

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