BRAINWAVES: EVOLUTION

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LISTEN HERE

FALSELY ACCUSED BY AN AI DETECTOR: HOW TO RESPOND

Before Using AI, Check Your Syllabus

- Check your syllabus first. Some professors may allow AI for brainstorming ideas, grammar checks, or formatting help, while others may prohibit AI use entirely.
- If the syllabus is unclear, ask. A quick email or question in class can prevent confusion later.
- If no policy exists and you are penalized, you have rights. Departments often have an appeals process to ensure students are treated fairly. Document your situation and follow official channels if necessary.

Recognize This Is a Transitional Time

- AI in education is new territory, and both students and instructors are adapting.
- Traditional plagiarism detectors are different. Those tools matched exact copy/paste text. AI detection is probabilistic and cannot provide certainty.
- Policies are still developing. Many schools are only beginning to establish guidelines. Students have a role in shaping fair, workable policies.

False Positives Do Happen

- Getting flagged by an AI detector does not mean you've committed plagiarism. These systems are far from perfect and can flag original work incorrectly.
- Address the issue directly with your instructor, in as polite and respectful terms as possible. Escalating makes everybody go on the defensive.
- Educate your professor on the inaccuracy of AI detectors (you can refer to the information from episode 2 of Brainwaves: Evolution!).

Use Version History as Evidence

- Your best defense against false AI flags is demonstrating how your writing developed.
- Google Docs and Microsoft Word automatically track revisions. This creates a timeline of your drafting process.
- Screenshots or links to your version history can verify that your work was written in stages, not pasted in from an external tool.

Be Transparent About Using AI

- If you used AI to assist with your writing (e.g., outlining, proofreading), be honest.
- You can note this in your submission or discuss it with your instructor.
- If possible, save chat logs or search histories with the AI tool to demonstrate how you used it and which parts were AI-assisted.

Avoid "AI Humanizer" Tools

- Humanizers often weaken writing. They may distort your style, introduce errors, or make your work less coherent.
- These tools don't guarantee that you won't be flagged—AI detectors are often trained on humanized texts.
- Better approach: If your original writing is flagged, bring the concern to your professor and explain clearly. Most instructors will appreciate transparency over quick fixes.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Reach out if you need support.

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