



BRAINWAVES: EVOLUTION

BY ALEX SYZOV & EVAN ORTIZ

LISTEN HERE

Mention AI Use in Your Syllabus

- Clearly define to what extent AI tools are allowed in your class. Be specific about how and when they can be used—for brainstorming, editing, summarizing, etc.
- Give examples of acceptable use, especially scenario-based ones (e.g., “Using AI to outline your paper is acceptable, but pasting full AI-generated responses is not.”).
- Mention Multiple Tools: Cover not just ChatGPT, but also Grammarly, Quillbot, and search-based AI like Perplexity. Each has different impacts on learning.

Don't use AI Detection Scores as a Decisive Factor

- Keep in mind that tools like Turnitin and GPTZero may flag original work as AI-generated and vice versa. False positives are common, especially for non-native speakers or neurodivergent students.
- Allow and encourage students to use version tracking (e.g., Google Docs history) to prove their writing process.
- Don't Punish Curiosity: If students are exploring AI but not using it unethically, use it as a learning moment, not a disciplinary one.

Adapt Your Assignments to Prevent AI Misuse

- Incorporate authentic, process-based learning. This includes more in-class and oral work, scaffolded drafts, personalized or local topics, creative and collaborative tasks, and frequent low-stakes check-ins. These approaches make assignments harder to outsource to AI while deepening engagement and accountability.
- Check out the first QR Code under “Additional Resources” to learn more.

Additional Resources



HOW TO TEACH IN THE AGE OF AI

Communicate Early

- Briefly explain to students that AI tools have limitations—hallucinating facts, offering surface-level arguments, or fabricating sources—and these limitations may evolve.
- Foster open dialogue: Invite students to share how they use AI. Their diverse strategies can spark class discussion and reveal innovative or problematic uses you didn't anticipate.
- Model effective use: Demonstrate how you yourself might use AI as a starting point, then show how to fact-check, expand, or revise it into stronger work.

If Possible, Encourage Your Students to Use AI Ethically

- Support Transparency: Ask students to mark what parts of their assignments were AI-assisted and reflect on why they chose to use AI for those sections. Let students submit reflective statements or search logs describing any AI involvement.
- Treat AI like a calculator in math—fine for certain steps, but not a substitute for conceptual understanding.

Recognize This Is a Transitional Time for Everyone

We're all learning how to work with AI in education.

- Instructors are used to plagiarism tools that provide definitive evidence (like copy/paste matches), but AI detection doesn't work that way. There is no such thing as 100% certainty when it comes to AI-generated content.
- Use this moment as an opportunity to advocate for clear policies, student protections, and open conversations around AI use.

Feel free to reach out to us personally should you have any questions or suggestions!

syzovian@txstate.edu
evan@txstate.edu