

How to Use AI in Academic Writing

At Living Faith Bible Institute (LFBI), we are committed to providing an educational environment that fosters spiritual growth and intellectual integrity. As part of our academic standards, it is important to recognize the appropriate use of technology in academic work, particularly the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. This guide is designed to help you understand how to use AI effectively and in alignment with LFBI's academic policies.

1. Understand the Policy

Our policy on the use of AI in academic assignments is straightforward: *Generative AI software is not permitted in the creation or generation of ideas in any assignment.* This means that students may not use AI to produce original content or ideas for their written work. The intention behind this policy is to ensure that your academic assignments reflect your personal engagement with the material, your ability to interpret and analyze it, and your commitment to learning.

The use of AI to **generate ideas OR revise writing in a structurally consequential way** is considered an equivalent to plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense at LFBI and will be treated with the utmost gravity. Violating this policy may result in disciplinary action, including formal review and potential consequences as outlined in the Student Handbook.

2. Permitted Uses of AI: Substantiating, Not Generating

While the generation of erudite or scholarly expressions through AI is prohibited, students may use AI in a limited capacity to *substantiate* ideas. This means that AI can be used to support your academic work, but not to replace the critical thinking, analysis, and original thought that are at the heart of your studies at LFBI.

Ways of Substantiating Ideas:

A. Writing Critique (Feedback on Content, Grammar, or Punctuation):

AI can assist in reviewing your work by providing feedback on areas such as spelling, grammar and punctuation. It is helpful for refining the technical aspects of your writing, but it **should not** be relied upon to improve or change the content or argumentation itself.

- For example, when using Grammarly or other processing software's that have integrated AI assistance, you may use AI for help with grammar or punctuation, but you may not use it to alter your ideas or sentence structure.

Always ensure that the substance of your work is your own.

B. Providing Intellectual Support (Research and Referral):

AI **can** be used to help you find relevant research or sources that may support your arguments. This includes locating academic papers, articles, or references that are pertinent to your subject matter. However, AI should not be used to generate new conclusions or ideas about the content. The research it provides must be evaluated and integrated by you, ensuring that it contributes to your own analysis and synthesis of the material.

3. Why This Matters

At LFBI, we believe that education is more than just the acquisition of knowledge; it is a process of spiritual and intellectual transformation. As Paul writes in *1 Corinthians 2:13*, *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual*. The act of learning, particularly in the context of theological study, requires not only intellectual effort but spiritual discernment.

AI tools, while helpful in certain contexts, cannot replicate the human capacity for creativity, interpretation, and spiritual reasoning. These tools are not designed to engage with Scripture and theological truths on the level that a disciple of Christ must. As you study and grow in your understanding of the Word, it is vital that you engage directly with the material, processing and interpreting it under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Over-relying on AI to complete assignments can undermine this process by replacing your personal intellectual and spiritual growth with a shortcut. As a result, the effectiveness of LFBI's program—designed to train souls and assess their understanding—would be compromised.

4. Practical Steps for Using AI Responsibly

To help you adhere to the policy while making responsible use of AI, here are some practical steps you can take:

1. Use AI for Revision, Not Creation:

After completing your written assignment, consider using AI for final edits. You may ask for feedback on grammar but not to refine the argument or theological insights presented. Remember, the content and ideas in your assignment should be your own.

2. Ensure Proper Citation:

If you use AI to find research materials or academic sources, be sure to cite them appropriately. AI can assist you in gathering references, but the critical evaluation and integration of those sources into your work must be done by you.

3. **Reflect on Your Work:**

When using AI to substantiate your ideas, take time to reflect on the feedback or research provided. AI can be a tool for further consideration, but your conclusions and interpretation must come from your own understanding and application of Scripture and theology.

4. **Seek Guidance if Unsure:**

If you are unsure whether the use of AI in a specific assignment complies with the policy, don't hesitate to seek guidance from your teacher assistant. They are there to support you in navigating these technologies and ensuring your work adheres to LFBI's standards.

AI can be a valuable tool in your academic journey, but it is essential to use it in a way that supports, rather than replaces, your personal academic and spiritual development. The policy at LFBI is in place to protect the integrity of your learning experience and to help you grow as a servant leader in Christ. By following these guidelines, you will ensure that your work reflects your own ideas, effort, and understanding, and that you are abiding by LFBI's commitment to academic integrity.