

# EFFECTIVE USE OF GENERATIVE AI FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

## Generative AI 101

**What:** Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools produce new text, images, or other content that **mimics** human-generated content

**How:**

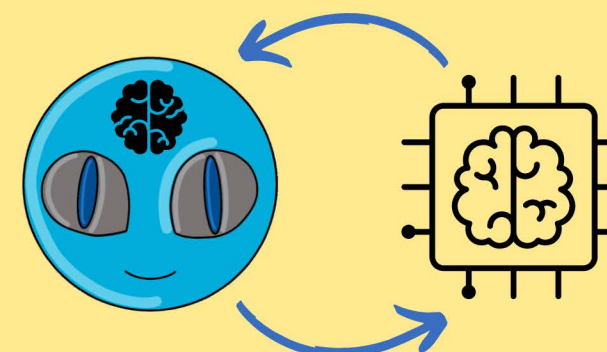
- AI tools produce outputs based on prompts
- Large Language Models (LLMs) have billions or trillions of parameters
- Models are trained on human-created data

Using an LLM **feels like** interacting with a human

## Critical Editing

- AI tools can efficiently generate content, but the human plays a critical role as an **editor**
- The **human-in-the-loop** approach ensures AI-produced content meets your goals

- Refining
- Restructuring
- Fact Checking
- Formulating arguments
- Reviewing



- Format conversion
- Templates
- Rewording
- Summarizing
- Repetitive Tasks

### Effective Uses

- Brainstorm in conversation with the AI
- See your work with a new perspective by prompting for a **summary**, a **compare and contrast**, or a **simplification**
- **Convert** equations, citations, code, or tables between formats like images and LaTeX
- Ask for **feedback** on your own writing, evaluate whether you agree with the feedback

### Cautions

- Generative AI can "**hallucinate**" convincing but false information
- Review the **guidelines** of journals, conferences, and classes on the use of AI tools
- Generative AI can produce material that has been **plagiarized** from other sources
- AI tools can be **biased** by the training data

### Dangers

- Do not use content from AI tools without **understanding** the content
- Do not use facts from AI tools without **reviewing** the primary (non-AI) source
- Do not include **confidential** or other **sensitive** information in conversations with AI tools

## Specific Tools

When possible, use AI tools that have been specifically trained for the task at hand, rather than a general language model like ChatGPT

- **GitHub Copilot:** coding
- **Grammarly:** spelling and grammar
- **SciSpace:** Literature review

## Human Assistance

AI tools can provide **immediate feedback**, but often lack:

- Consideration of outside factors
- Deep domain-specific knowledge
- Understanding of nuance
- Ability to operate on brand new content
- Lived experience

Book an appointment



Where AI tools leave off, we can pick up. Make an appointment with a **(human)** Communication Lab Fellow today!