

Thinking about using **generative AI** like **ChatGPT** or **Bing** for your coursework?

Here are **5 essential tips** you need to know!



1. Ask first:

Don't use generative AI unless your course syllabus or professor explicitly allows it. Remember, different courses have different rules. Unsure? Ask your instructor or consult McMaster's [Academic Integrity Policy - u.mcmaster.ca/acint](https://u.mcmaster.ca/acint).



2. Generative AI 101:

Generative AI, like ChatGPT, uses machine learning to create new content. While generative AI tools can help explore new ideas, write text, and get feedback, there are important limitations to these tools to keep in mind.



3. Generative AI has its Limits:

Remember, even though generative AI can produce compelling content, it doesn't have human judgement or understanding. It can't provide personal insights or contextual awareness, has biases, and it can't replace the value of your own critical thinking. Plus: it sometimes makes things up or "hallucinates." Stay sharp and use a reliable source (i.e. not another generative AI tool!) to fact-check any content produced by AI before incorporating it into your work. Need help identifying a reliable source? Ask the [McMaster University Library - library.mcmaster.ca](https://library.mcmaster.ca)!

4. Be Transparent:



If you're allowed to use AI, make sure you disclose how and where. Don't forget to correctly cite all your sources, including any AI-generated content. Your instructor will explain to you how to share your use of generative AI. Need help with citation? Visit the [McMaster University Library Generative AI Citation Guide - libguides.mcmaster.ca/cite-gen-ai](https://libguides.mcmaster.ca/cite-gen-ai) for guidance.

5. Learning Matters:



While AI can be a helpful tool, it should support your work, skill development and understanding, not replace it. What you learn in your courses matters for your program and also for your future! Struggling with the course material and/or academic skills needed for assessments? Reach out to your instructor or TA – they're here to help.

If you are looking for more information or support, please check out:

- Your own faculty or department
- [Generative AI at McMaster - u.mcmaster.ca/genai-atmac](https://u.mcmaster.ca/genai-atmac)
- [McMaster Library - library.mcmaster.ca](https://library.mcmaster.ca)
- [Writing and Academic Skills - u.mcmaster.ca/writing](https://u.mcmaster.ca/writing) through the [Student Success Centre - studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca](https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca)
- [Student Wellness Centre - wellness.mcmaster.ca](https://wellness.mcmaster.ca)
- [Student Accessibility Services - sas.mcmaster.ca](https://sas.mcmaster.ca)

