EWSD Position on AI Detection Tools

At EWSD, our first “AI” is and will continue to be “Academic Integrity”. We want our staff and students to consider this first. No matter the tool, the technology, or the software, we need to instill a sense of integrity and honesty that students will want to adhere to. We know there will always be those who challenge this or move in opposition to it, but we will continue to maintain this as our foundational AI objective. Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility are expectations for students and teachers. Students should be truthful in giving credit to sources and tools and honest in presenting work that is genuinely their own for evaluation and feedback. **See this section of the EWSD Handbook.**

The use of AI detectors, while seemingly helpful in identifying potential AI-generated content, is not without significant issues that make their use by educators problematic. First, these tools are often inaccurate (studies show approximately 20% of the time), with false positives marking human-written work as AI-generated and false negatives missing AI-generated content. This inconsistency can lead to unfair judgments where individuals may be unjustly penalized. The algorithms behind most AI detectors lack transparency, making it difficult for users to understand how and why certain content is flagged. Therefore, based on the existing evidence, we do not recommend that our educators use these tools.

Here is some of the research that supports this document:

- How are combinations of human-written words and LLM-generated words by ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini and Grammarly detected by Turnitin?
- AI detection software doesn’t work - Adam Sparks
- AI Detection in Education is a Dead End - Leon Furze
- From Maryland University CS: Can AI-Generated Text be Reliably Detected?
- From Dr. Debora Weber-Wulff: “The systems we tested should not be used in academic settings."
- Direct from OpenAI (the creators of ChatGPT) and the blog where they admit to giving up
- From Stanford: Biased against non-native English
- MIT – AI Detectors Don’t Work. Here’s What to Do Instead
- Vanderbilt – Guidance on AI Detection and Why We’re Disabling Turnitin’s AI Detector