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Introduction to Lex: an AI-Powered Writing Assistant

You may use certain approved AI tools within this course. Please note that the use of these tools must conform with our AI Standards of Use policy outlined in our course syllabus.

Lex is an AI-powered word processor that functions much like a traditional Google Doc, with the added feature that allows writers to call upon AI assistance when they need it. It uses the same model that powers ChatGPT.

How to Use Lex:

Watch tutorial videos about getting started and using Lex:

- [Welcome to Lex](#)
- [Overview of Lex](#)

Specific Features:

- [How do I Identify What was Written by the AI in Lex?](#)
- [How do I Share a Link to my Work in Lex?](#)
- How do I [Get Feedback from Lex?](#)
- [How to Switch Between GPT Models in Lex?](#)

Accessing Lex:

Sign up for a free account with [Lex](#)

AI Assisted vs. AI Generated Guidance

Please refer to our [main course policy about AI Assisted vs. AI Generated content](#) in our course. Any use of AI in our class requires students to reflect critically on its application and how it helped or hindered their learning. Review the following guidance for this specific tool:

Acceptable	Acceptable, With Attribution	Not Acceptable
AI Ideation Assistance	AI Writing Assistance	AI Generated Content
Use Lex to augment your writing process with AI, not replace it. You can use AI to: • Brainstorm • Grammar/ Spelling • Feedback • Explore counterarguments • Revise	You may use the generative features in Lex to produce portions of your writing, but all generated text must be attributed to the AI. • You can easily share what was produced by the AI within Lex by clicking the Show AI Writing button.	• Use Lex or another AI tool to generate portions of your writing without acknowledgement or attribution. • Use AI to offload the recursive writing process. • Uncritically adopt an AI tool or technique without reflection

Reflect on Your AI Usage

If you use any AI feature, you will need to keep track of how you used it to reflect on how this impacted your writing process. The goal with this reflection is to help you understand how your use of AI impacts your writing process—not police your use of the tool.

Identify:

Any AI generated content included in a piece of writing needs to be **attributed**. As noted above, Lex allows you to easily share what was generated by AI once [you share your draft](#), you may then consult [MLA](#) or [APA](#) guidelines for citing generative AI tools.

Collect and Reflect

After using an AI feature within your essay, you then need to reflect on how you used the tool. You may reflect holistically at the end of an assignment (meaning you don't have to write an entry for each use of the AI), however, having a clear log of what you've done can be helpful in exploring AI's impact on your writing process. Here are some sample questions for you to reflect upon.

- How has using Lex impacted your overall writing process? Do you find yourself planning and organizing your writing differently when using the tool?
- In what specific ways has Lex influenced the quality of your writing? Has it helped improve spelling, grammar, sentence structure, etc.?
- Do you feel Lex improves the originality and creativity of your writing? Or does relying on its suggestions limit your own unique ideas and voice?
- To what extent are you still critically thinking through Lex's suggestions and edits? Do you accept its recommendations blindly or apply your own judgment?
- How much time do you spend revising and editing what Lex generates versus simply accepting its initial draft?
- Has using Lex increased or decreased your confidence in your own writing abilities? Do you feel more or less in control of the writing process?
- What skills related to the craft of writing do you feel you are learning from Lex, if any? Is it teaching you about style, structure, persuasion, etc.?
- Do you think relying heavily on Lex now could hinder your future ability to write well without AI assistance? Why or why not?
- How do you maintain your own voice and style when incorporating Lex's suggestions? Do you feel it threatens your authorial identity?
- Should students be concerned about plagiarism when using AI writing tools? Why or why not?
- What ethical concerns, if any, do you have regarding Lex and other AI writing assistants? Should their role in authorship be disclosed?
- In what scenarios do you find Lex most useful as a writing aid? When does it fall short or create new challenges?
- How do you envision AI tools like Lex evolving in their capabilities going forward? Will they enhance or replace human writing? Should their use be regulated?

Why it Matters

Reflecting on your writing and research process is crucial in any writing course. Now that generative AI is possible, reflecting on how this new tool impacts your writing will help inform yourself and potentially others about how best to use the technology ethically and pragmatically.