

AI-Assisted Summaries and Paraphrases

As technology continues to shape the way we access and process information, writers must learn to navigate new tools while maintaining clarity, accuracy, and originality. This assignment is designed to strengthen your skills in summarizing and paraphrasing—core components of effective writing—while also helping you critically evaluate AI as a writing tool. By engaging with AI in a responsible and reflective way, you will learn how to leverage its capabilities while ensuring that your writing remains clear, accurate, and authentically your own.

Preparing to Use AI Tools

Understanding AI language models

AI tools like [ChatGPT](#) and [Claude](#) are designed to generate human-like text responses. These AI language models can be used to understand and generate natural language, making them highly versatile for a wide range of uses, from answering questions to assisting with content creation. AI's ability to learn from a vast body of text allows it to provide informative, contextually relevant responses across diverse topics.

You input directions, instructions, or a question, and the AI tool generates a response. The input that you give to the AI tool is called a prompt.

Writing Effective Prompts

- Be Clear and Specific
 - Example: Instead of "Tell me how to organize a paper," use "List strategies for organizing an argumentative essay on climate change."
- Provide context
 - Example: Instead of "Give me tips for how to write introductions," use "You are an expert in academic writing. I'm drafting an essay about the impact of social media on mental health. Suggest 5 different strategies for writing an engaging introduction, tailored for a college-level audience."
- Iterative Approach

- Example: Initial prompt: List 10 common logical fallacies students should avoid in persuasive essays.
- Example: Follow-up: Of these fallacies, which are most often found in essays on controversial topics like gun control or climate policy?

Verifying AI-Generated Information

- **Cross-Check Facts.** Do not assume that AI-generated output is accurate or authentic. AI often makes up fictional responses to answer questions. Because you cannot be certain of the source of the AI's output, it is important to verify AI responses with credible sources.
- **Critical Thinking.** While its responses may seem like AI is doing analysis and critical thinking, the AI tool is actually programmed to respond to your prompt based on patterns in language. It analyzes those language patterns to generate a response. This is very different from the synthesis of information and critical thinking about concepts that your human mind does naturally. You have to review each response and evaluate the plausibility and accuracy of AI responses and whether they logically make sense.

Acknowledging Use of AI

Your use of AI should be disclosed so that you are not taking credit for work that was not created by you. Use your instructor's preferred method of acknowledgment.

Instructions

STEP 1: Select a Passage

Find an article or blog post on a topic that interests you. The source should be credible (e.g., a news website, academic blog, or professional publication). Then, read the article carefully. Choose a short passage (200-300 words) from your selected reading. The passage should contain clear main ideas and supporting details.

STEP 2: Write Your Own Summary

Read the passage carefully and write a 3-5 sentence summary in your own words. Your summary should:

- Capture the main ideas of the passage.
- Avoid unnecessary details.
- Not include direct quotes.

STEP 3: Generate an AI Summary

Next, use an AI tool (such as ChatGPT, Claude, QuillBot, or Google Gemini) to generate a summary of the same passage. Copy and paste the passage into the AI and use a prompt like:

"Summarize the following passage in 3-5 sentences while preserving the main ideas."

Save the AI-generated summary for comparison.

STEP 4: Compare the Summaries

Now, analyze both your summary and the AI-generated summary using the following questions:

- **Accuracy:** Does the summary correctly reflect the passage's main points?
- **Conciseness:** Does it avoid unnecessary details?
- **Clarity:** Is the language clear and easy to understand?
- **Bias or Misinterpretation:** Did AI omit or distort any important ideas?

Write down any key differences you notice between the two summaries.

STEP 5: Write Your Own Paraphrase

Select a meaningful sentence or short paragraph from the passage and rewrite it in your own words, preserving the meaning but changing the structure and wording.

STEP 6: Generate an AI Paraphrase

Ask AI to paraphrase the same sentence or paragraph. Use a prompt like:

"Paraphrase the following sentence while maintaining its original meaning."

Save the AI-generated summary for comparison.

STEP 7: Compare the Paraphrases

Compare AI's paraphrase with yours. Answer the following questions:

- Did AI change the meaning in any way?
- Was AI's paraphrase **too close** to the original (which could lead to plagiarism)?
- How does human judgment improve the paraphrasing process?

If needed, refine your paraphrase to ensure clarity and accuracy.

Step 7: Write a Reflection (300-400 words)

Reflect on your experience by answering the following questions:

- How well did the AI summarize and paraphrase the passage?
- What did AI do well, and where did it fall short?
- How did human judgment improve the summaries and paraphrases?
- When might it be appropriate to use AI for summarization and paraphrasing, and when should it be avoided?

Submit your reflection along with your original and AI-generated summaries and paraphrases.

Rubric

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Inadequate
Understanding of Summarizing and Paraphrasing	Demonstrates a strong grasp of summarizing and paraphrasing by accurately and clearly restating ideas in original wording and structure. Avoids direct copying and includes all key points.	Shows good understanding of summarizing and paraphrasing, with mostly accurate and original restatements. May miss or oversimplify minor points.	Demonstrates basic understanding but may rely too closely on original wording or omit key ideas.	Shows minimal understanding of summarizing and paraphrasing. Summary or paraphrase may be too similar to original or miss key ideas entirely.
Comparison and Analysis of AI vs. Human Output	Provides a thoughtful, well-supported comparison with clear insights into accuracy, clarity, bias, and judgment. Demonstrates critical thinking.	Offers a relevant and mostly accurate comparison with some insight into differences and limitations of AI vs. human output.	Comparison is surface-level or only partially addresses the required criteria. Limited analysis of key differences.	Fails to meaningfully compare or analyze the AI and human outputs. Lacks engagement with the assignment criteria.
Reflection and Insight	Reflection is thoughtful, well-developed, and clearly addresses all questions with strong personal insight and practical evaluation of AI use.	Reflection addresses most questions and includes some relevant insight and evaluation.	Reflection is brief or vague, with limited personal insight or general responses to the questions.	Reflection is incomplete or off-topic, showing little engagement with the assignment's goals.

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