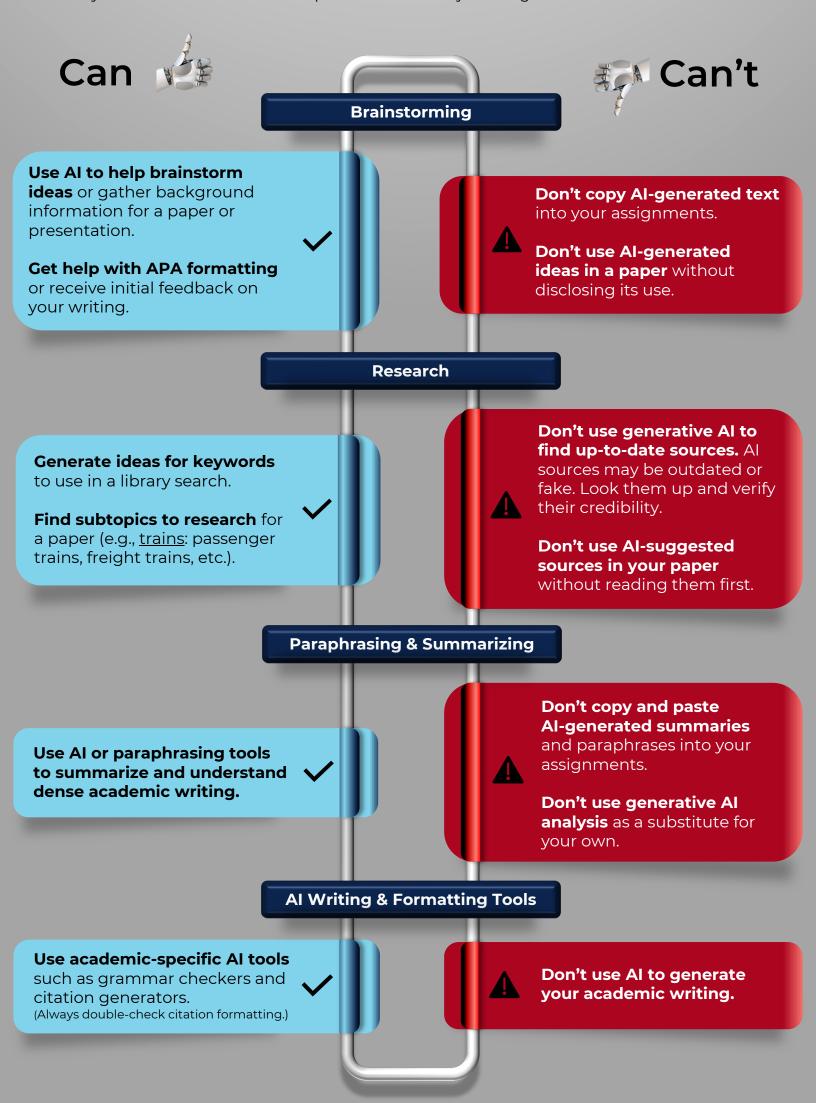# Academic Use of AI: Writing & Research

Artificial intelligence (AI) programs, such as generative ChatGPT, can be fun and helpful tools for writing and research. Grammar checkers and citation generators are examples of useful AI apps. However, in an academic setting, it can be tricky to know when writing and research tools cross the line into unethical use and plagiarism. If students use AI tools to generate class assignments instead of original thoughts, analysis, and research, it defeats the purpose of learning, which is to interact independently with course content.

We recommend that you always do your own original writing and research. The Writing Center and Library can provide personal help with your assignments, including 24/7 tutoring services, which are easily accessible in your course. If you decide to use AI tools, use the following guidelines to maintain academic integrity for your writing and research at UAGC. Always check with your instructor about the acceptable use of AI for your assignments!

Can 👍   Can't 👎

Brainstorming

Can:
Use AI to help brainstorm ideas or gather background information for a paper or presentation.

Get help with APA formatting or receive initial feedback on your writing.

Can't:
⚠️ **Don't copy AI-generated text** into your assignments.

Don't use AI-generated ideas in a paper without disclosing its use.

Research

Can:
Generate ideas for keywords to use in a library search.

Find subtopics to research for a paper (e.g., trains: passenger trains, freight trains, etc.).

Can't:
⚠️ **Don't use generative AI to find up-to-date sources.** AI sources may be outdated or fake. Look them up and verify their credibility.

Don't use AI-suggested sources in your paper without reading them first.

Paraphrasing & Summarizing

Can:
Use AI or paraphrasing tools to summarize and understand dense academic writing.

Can't:
⚠️ **Don't copy and paste AI-generated summaries** and paraphrases into your assignments.

Don't use generative AI analysis as a substitute for your own.

AI Writing & Formatting Tools

Can:
Use academic-specific AI tools such as grammar checkers and citation generators.
(Always double-check citation formatting.)

Can't:
⚠️ **Don't use AI to generate your academic writing.**

View the *Using Generative AI in Writing and Research* webpage to learn how to effectively use AI for your academic work and how to disclose its use.

For help with writing and research, contact the Library and Writing Center:
library@uagc.edu and writing@uagc.edu