SJSU | WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

GENERATIVE AI
for
Writing Instructors

WEEK 2
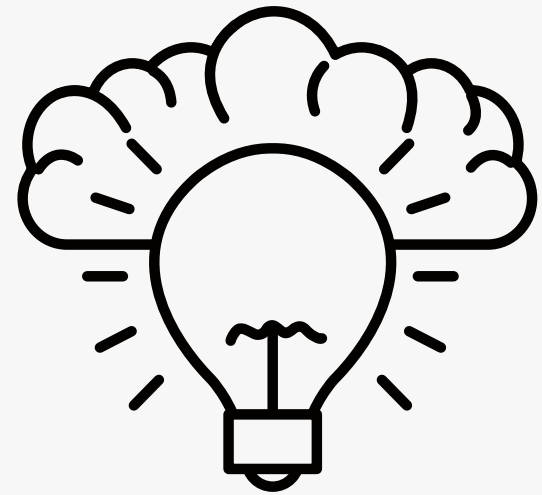
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Check-In

1. Any questions or concerns about last week's topic or today's?

2. What are you planning to write about? And are you writing alone, or with a friend?

Objectives

Meeting #2: AI for Idea Generation

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- Try out methods for using AI to generate and refine ideas.

- Understand how to develop good prompts for idea generation.

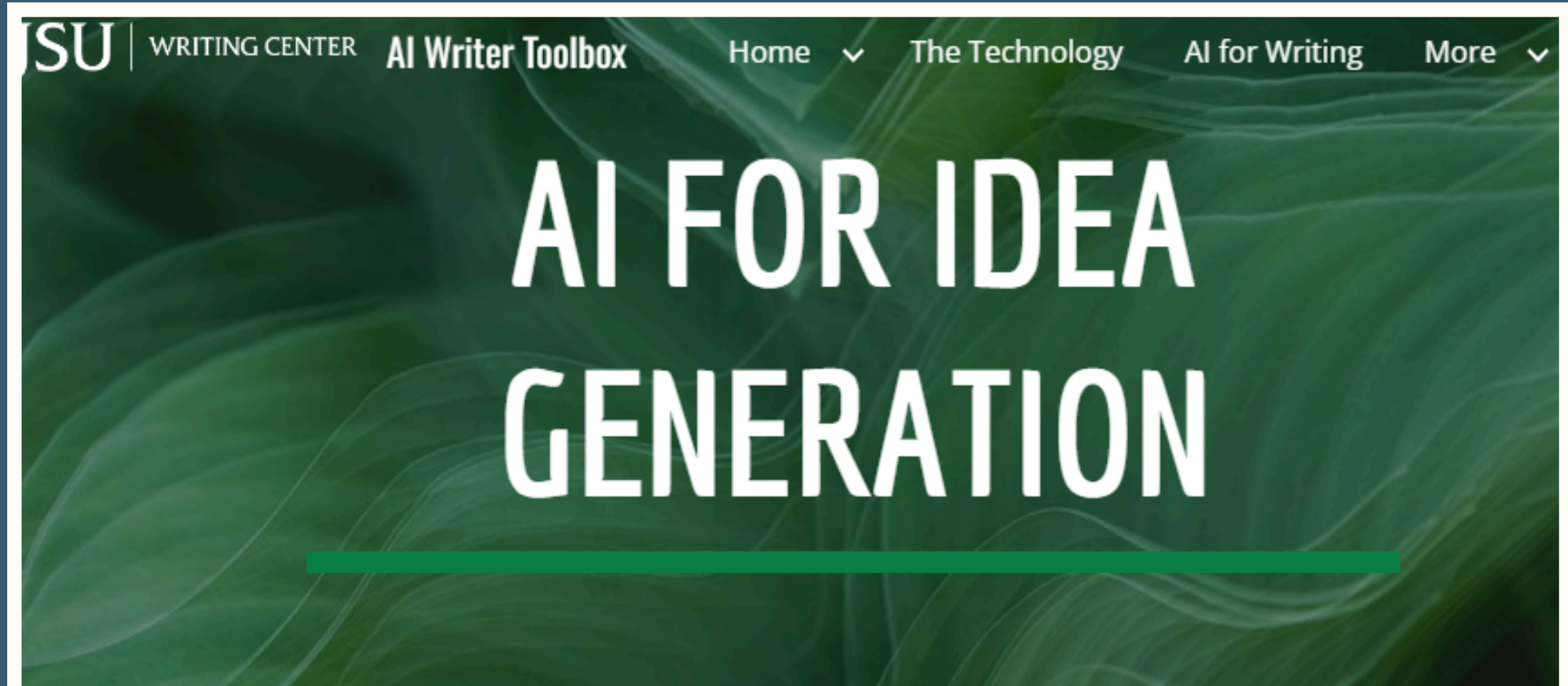- Begin outlining your writing assignment with the assistance of AI tools.

AI for Idea Generation

AI Writer Toolbox

➡️ [AI for Idea Generation](#)

Let's take a look at the toolbox section.

JSU | WRITING CENTER   **AI Writer Toolbox**   Home ⌄   The Technology   AI for Writing   More ⌄

AI FOR IDEA GENERATION

OVERVIEW

Using AI to generate ideas and explore topics can be a potential starting point for for your writing process, especially if you're not quite sure where to begin. Certain AI platforms can now provide you with source information, including clickable links and summaries of information. However, while AI can be useful in exploring general ideas, it becomes less useful as the topic becomes more nuanced and specific. It's always best practice to verify sources and information and make sure that you cross-check material to ensure that it is accurate. This section will cover some strategies and models of how students can use AI for idea generation, while also covering the concerns that arise when doing so.

While the AI Writer Toolbox can help you learn more about applications of AI in writing, it's important to remember that faculty will have different policies about the use of AI in the classroom. **If you are ever in doubt about acceptable applications of AI tools in a specific class, the best thing to do is ask your instructor.**

Prompt Example

- Easy identification of potential keywords

- Lack of hedging language

Sure! Socioeconomic inequities in South Africa refer to the unequal distribution of wealth opportunities, and resources among different groups of people in the country. This inequality has deep historical roots and affects how people live, work, and access basic needs like education, healthcare, and housing.

Historical Background

South Africa has a history of racial segregation and discrimination, most notably during the apartheid era (1948-1994). Under apartheid, laws were made to keep people of different races separate and to give more privileges to white people. Black, colored (mixed race), and Indian people were forced to live in separate areas, often with poor living conditions, and had limited access to quality education, jobs, and healthcare. This created a massive gap between the rich (mainly white people) and the poor (mainly black and colored people).

Present-Day Inequities

Even though apartheid ended in 1994, the effects are still visible today. Many black South Africans still live in poverty and have less access to quality education and healthcare. Unemployment is higher among black people, and they are more likely to live in informal settlements or townships, which often lack basic services like clean water, electricity, and sanitation.

Prompt Example

- Division into topical clusters

- Very distilled and simplified explanation of issues

- Easy identification of potential keywords

Economic Inequality

South Africa has one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world. A small percentage of the population, mostly white and wealthy, controls a large portion of the country's wealth, while the majority, especially black South Africans, struggle to make ends meet. This inequality is also reflected in employment opportunities; people from poorer communities often have fewer chances to get well-paying jobs due to a lack of quality education and skills training.

Social Inequality

The socioeconomic gap also affects social aspects like health and safety. Poorer communities often have higher rates of crime, lower life expectancy, and higher levels of diseases like HIV/AIDS. Access to good healthcare is limited, and many people in these communities can't afford private healthcare, so they rely on the often under-resourced public healthcare system.

Efforts to Address Inequities

The South African government has implemented various programs and policies to try to reduce these inequities. For example, Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) policies aim to increase the participation of black people in the economy by giving them more opportunities in business and employment. The government has also invested in social grants, like child support and old-age pensions, to help the poorest citizens.

Other Applications

- Ask AI to generate suggestions for research methodologies.
- Ask AI to generate recommendations for scholarly databases.
- Ask AI to generate specific keywords relating to a topic to help with a database search if the initial topic brainstorm doesn't produce results.
- Conduct a "reverse interview."

AI Hallucinations

WHAT ARE THEY?

"When an algorithmic system generates information that seems plausible but is actually inaccurate or misleading..." (*The Conversation*)
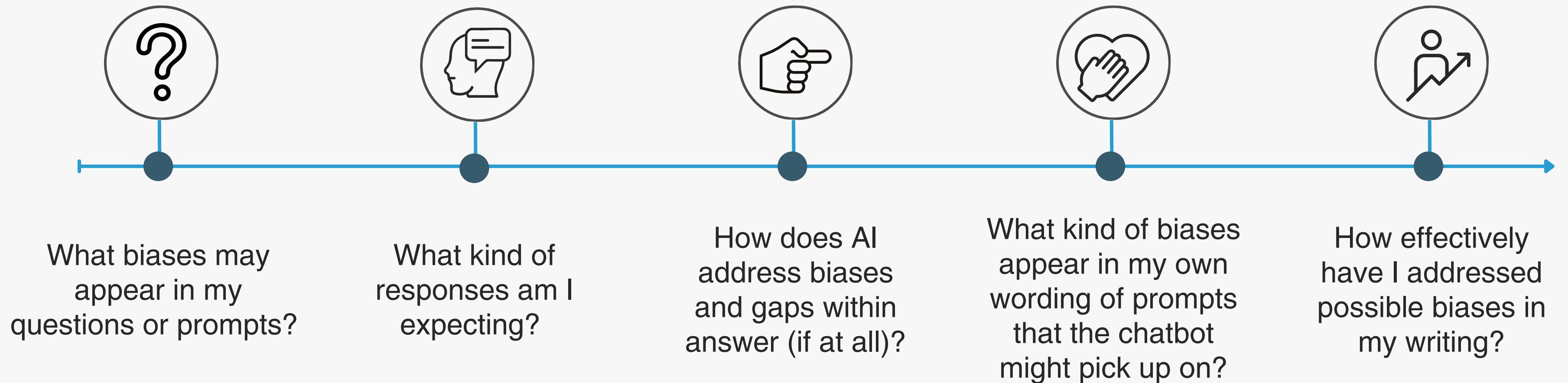
HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THEM?

Double-check, cross-check, verify! This can also be used as a strategy to help students develop a research practice.

- Start Your Research
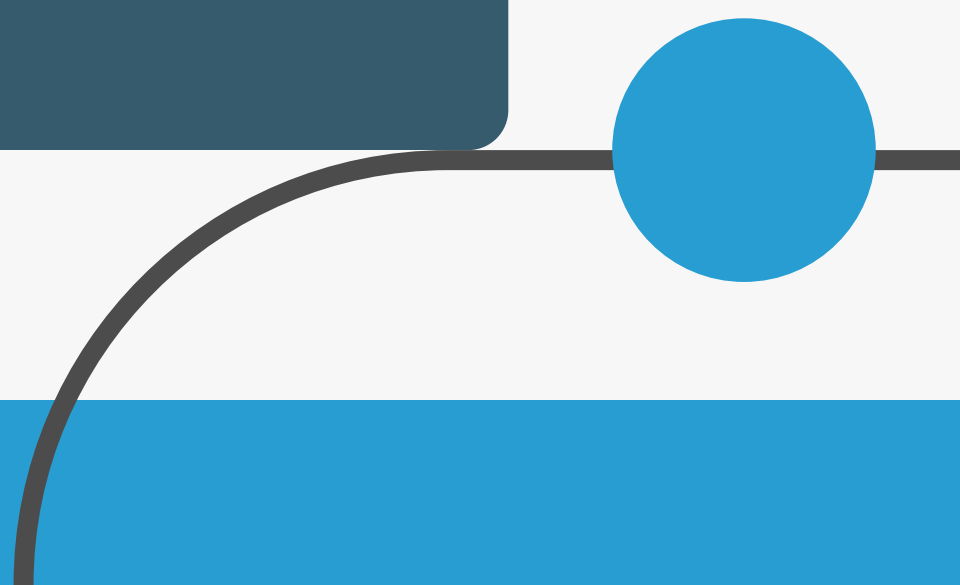- Library Online Tutorials

How can you account for AI Bias?

What biases may appear in my questions or prompts?

What kind of responses am I expecting?

How does AI address biases and gaps within answer (if at all)?

What kind of biases appear in my own wording of prompts that the chatbot might pick up on?

How effectively have I addressed possible biases in my writing?

Caveat

- For this to be effective, some basic knowledge about the topic is required.
- AI relies on the data on which it is trained—which includes all sorts of sources that may or not be relevant.
  - It cannot replace the research process.
- It is worth considering whether the intended use of AI will be time-effective.

Activity, Part 1

In small groups of 2-3, use ChatGPTEdu to do the following:

- Generate 2-3 different potential perspectives on your chosen topic.
- Generate related subtopics.
- Explain the genre expectations of the writing assignment (op-ed).

We will come back together as a group after time to share findings, thoughts, and pros/cons of the exercise.
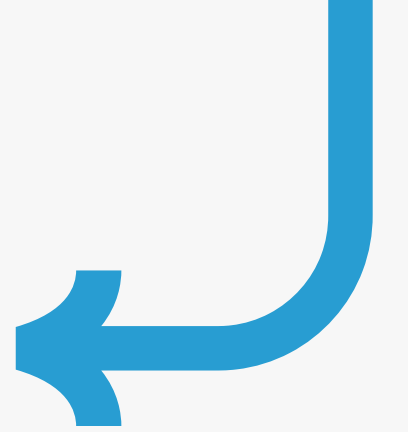
Homework

Refine/complete your outline and have it ready for next week. Upload a copy to Canvas.

→ Homework Tips ←

- Use AI to generate an outlines on your chosen topic (complete with any chosen perspectives or subtopics you've decided to include).

- Remember that the point of the activity is to practice writing prompts that avoid having ChatGPT develop the argument for you. The goal is to produce a potential outline based on your decided argument.

Questions?

AI Writer Toolbox:
sites.google.com/sjsu.edu/aiwritertoolbox

Website:
sjsu.edu/writingcenter/

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Thank you!