

# Writing Center at Occidental College: Approaches to GenAI

## Key principles

- Our mission is grounded in the belief in the power of writing to a liberal arts education and in the belief that written work shapes how human writers and readers understand ourselves, others, and the world around us.
- Our approach to AI in the Writing Center underscores that writing's value cannot and should not be replaced by artificial intelligence.
- In the WC, we will continue to lean into the crucial role human readers play in encouraging and supporting writers to develop and strengthen their skills and understand the impact of their writing.

## Values and approaches

- We view students we work with as learners with positive intentions, and we will support their individual needs, skill levels, and writing purposes and goals.
  - We will coach students towards writing in their own words, using their own ideas, and making their own choices in their written communications.
  - We will provide support, knowledge, and specific strategies to help students feel confident and capable in their writing.
- We maintain our position as a trusted go-between for students and faculty, and especially as a central means of academic support for students.
  - If relevant, we may ask about the AI policies and guidelines for courses, but it is not our role to enforce or report violations of course policies.
  - If we are aware that a course or a program (i.e., FYS) prohibits AI use, we will remind students of the policy and work with them to align their writing responses accordingly (including citation of all sources used or consulted).
  - We will direct students to college policies or resources pertaining to AI use (such as the Library's AI Literacy Module in Canvas).
- We listen empathetically to understand differences in viewpoints.
  - We may share our views on AI while framing those views as part of a conversation in which students' views are valid and worth considering.
  - We will work with students to help them understand reasons for or against AI use and the limitations, biases, and best/worst practices of AI use in academic settings and tasks related to reading/writing.