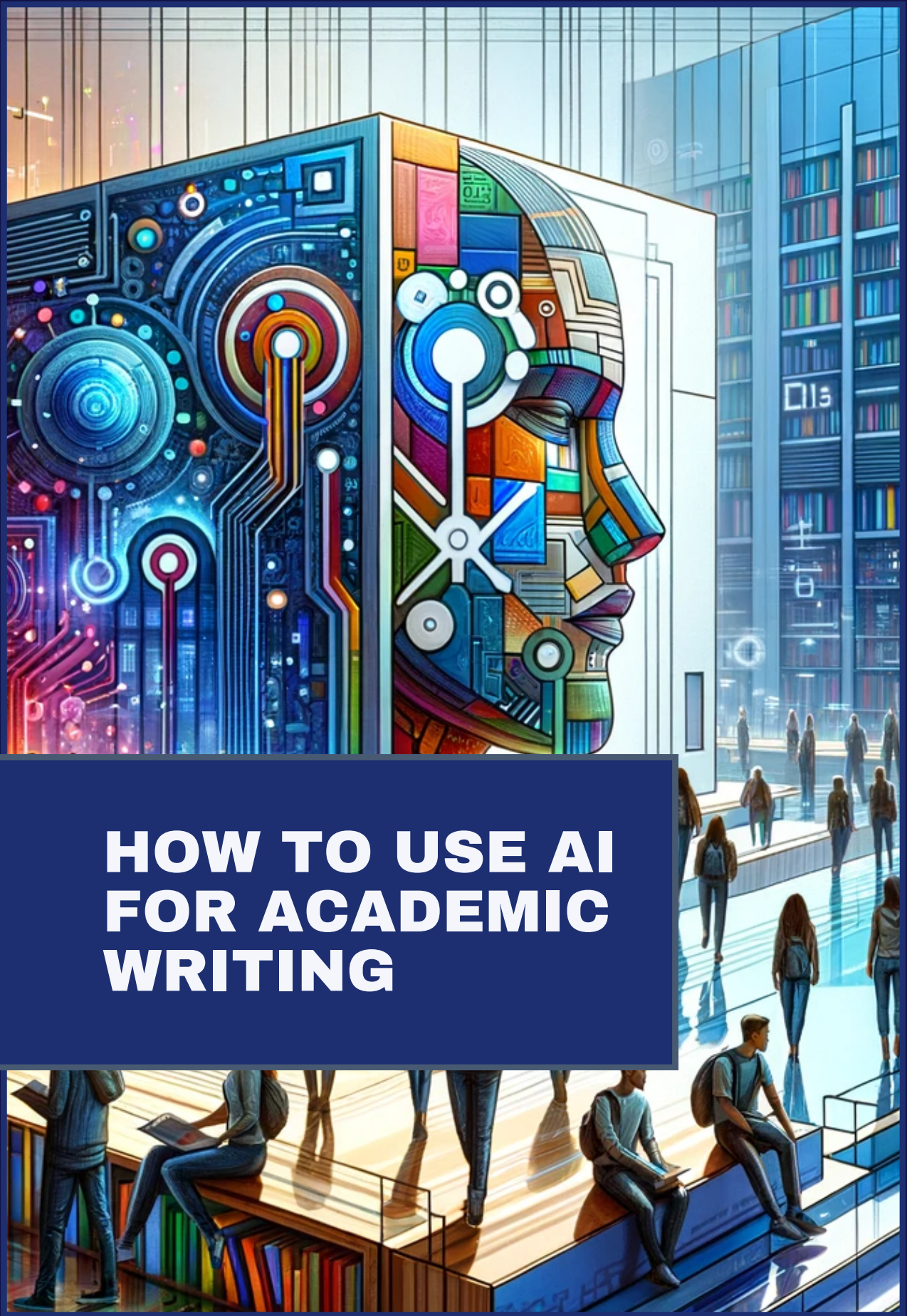
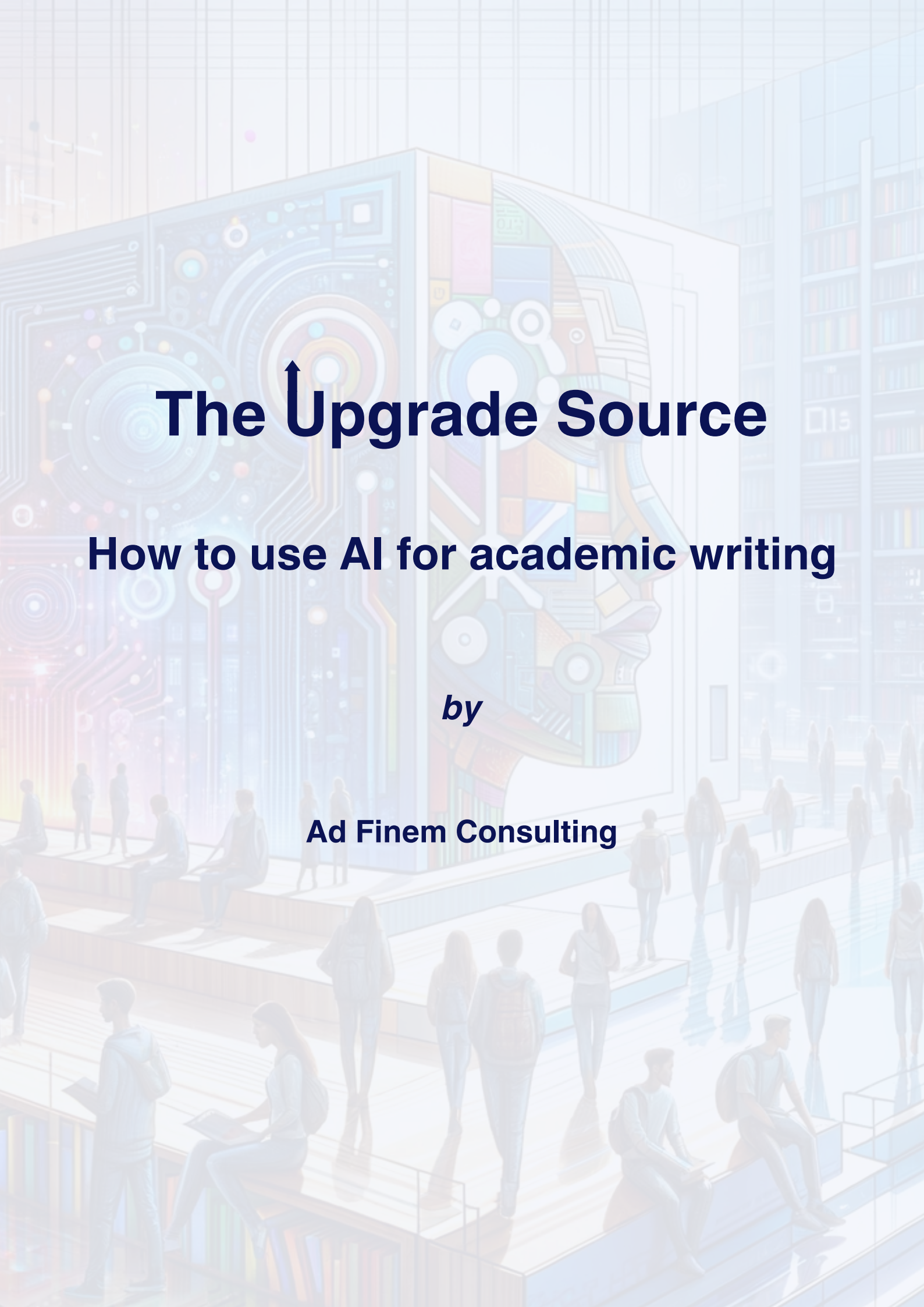
THE UPGRADE SOURCE



HOW TO USE AI FOR ACADEMIC WRITING

All you need to master AI academic writing. User-friendly fundamentals of academic text, step-by-step instructions, practical examples and prompts adaptable to any area of study.



The Upgrade Source

How to use AI for academic writing

by

Ad Finem Consulting

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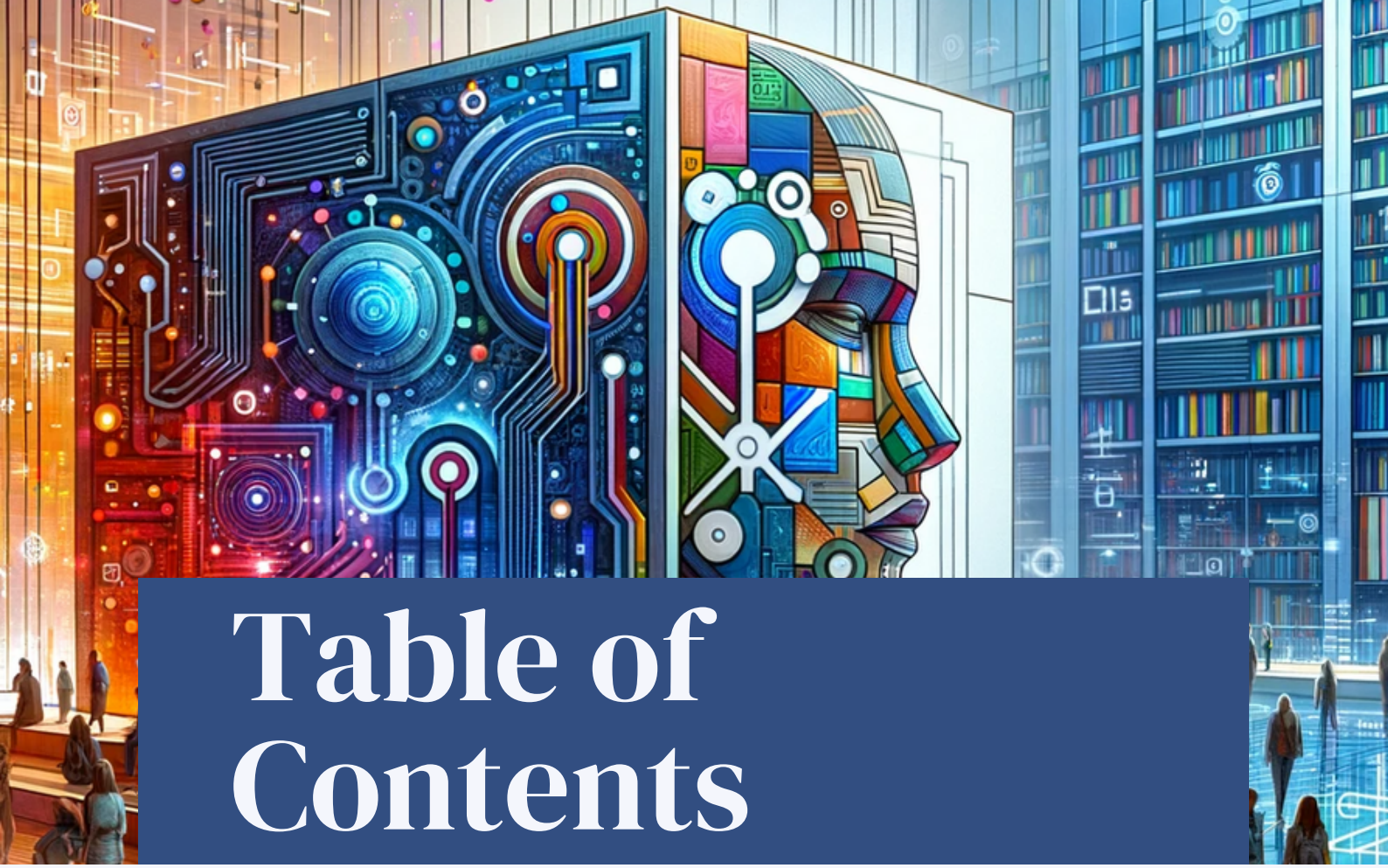
Disclaimer

We are a small team of academic consultants offering independent support to students in the U.K. and the U.S. We are not affiliated with any universities or academic bodies in either of these countries.

This guide is developed as an advisory piece only and does not encourage students to cheat. Each user is solely responsible for upholding the rules and regulations of their respective universities and the publishers and authors of this book are in no way liable for losses that may arise from the use of information and examples in this guide.

References used in the examples provided are not always real and should not be considered as supporting evidence. The scope of these references is to exemplify a writing technique or a prompt development approach.

Considering the rapid development of AI technologies, this guide is solely based on the practical experience of our academic consultancy team.



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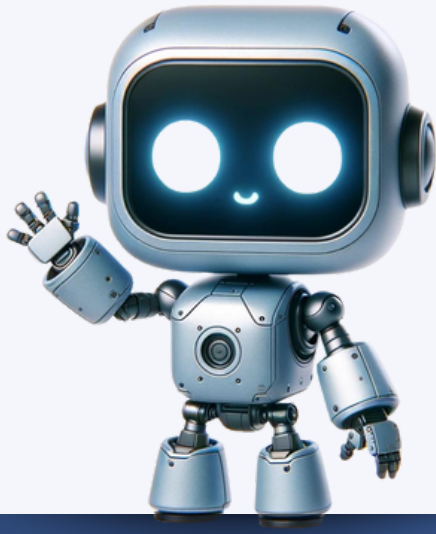


Preface

You're navigating the stormy waters of student life, where balancing demanding coursework with a part-time job is now the new norm, especially with the ongoing cost of living crisis. Throughout 2023, you were faced with an unprecedented increase in written assignments, adding to an already heavy academic burden. In 2024, things didn't get easier and you can't seem to catch a break! This isn't just about physical exhaustion; the mental toll is real and palpable. Mental health concerns, increasingly prevalent among students, are no longer just background noise, but a significant part of your university experience.

Amidst this tumultuous journey, we hope to provide you with the academic weapons you need to succeed in this battle. We developed this guide for students like yourself, to serve as a cost-effective and timely solution to efficiently manage your assignments by leveraging the power of AI. We hope to ease your workload while transforming your university experience into an enriching adventure that's focused on learning and personal growth, rather than just surviving the stress.

What is this guide?

This guide is a resource for students who want to upgrade their writing skills and create better academic work in the shortest time possible by using at full capacity the power of AI. This is a much-needed resource in a time when student stress is at an all-time high, and AI presents an innovative and reachable solution that can really help you catch a break.

Our goal is for you to acquire these skills as fast as humanly possible. For this reason, this guide is brief and to the point. You will be able to read and practice what you learned in less than a week. This way, we are not adding to your academic burden, but rather giving you an optimised learning experience. The scope of this guide is to teach you how to use AI the right way, not to plagiarise. This being said, depending on your university policy, advice in this guide may not comply with academic integrity rules.

Where do universities stand on AI?

While some universities do recognise the need to adapt and integrate AI into the learning process, most universities in the UK consider the use of AI for written assignments as academic misconduct. Regardless of the reasons behind this slow adaptation to new technologies, AI is here to stay and it's unlikely that universities will escape it. Yet, it can be a long time before universities understand that AI on its own is about as useful as a chocolate teapot. Many students fail to understand this too. This is why those who use AI wrong to write their essays get flagged for academic misconduct.

To do this right, you need to understand that AI is not capable, on its own, of making critical arguments. AI can just write, and while it can make some arguments, these are general, lifeless, and usually supported by fake references. Notably, these kinds of arguments can be spotted immediately by a professor. In this guide, you will learn how to leverage the power of AI to create critical arguments that follow your own style and express your own ideas rather than just creating coherent randomness.

Where does OpenAI stand on GPT and copyright

In the user policy, OpenAI recognises that the copyright for the text generated by AI belongs to the person who developed the prompt that led the AI to generate that response. OpenAI also recognises that limited prompts may generate content that is similar or identical between users. When considering the complex requirements of academic assignments, such as essays or case studies, and when applying specific AI techniques that you will learn from this guide, it becomes impossible for the AI to generate similar content between users.

What can this guide teach me?

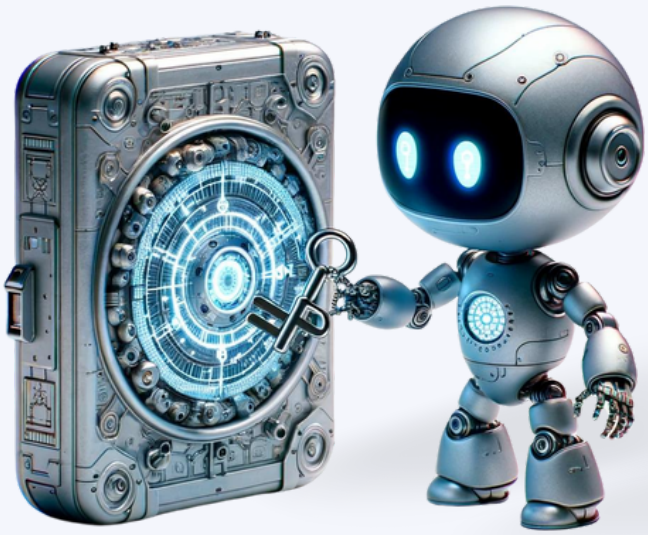
Firstly, we aim to teach you the basics of how AI generates text and how it gets detected by software or/and humans. Once you know this, you'll also know what you need to do to guide the AI in generating text that goes beyond human detection. You'll also understand how AI-generated text needs to be edited to escape software detection.

Next, you'll learn the fundamental principles of academic writing and critical analysis in a simple and easy way. We have lots of practical examples, making this learning experience fun and engaging.
Because we want to make your life easier, we only stick to what is important for you to know. You can then use this knowledge to instruct the AI to generate critical academic text that matches your style and university-level requirements.

Next, we've dedicated a whole chapter to practical demonstrations of how to use AI to generate academic text. Here, you'll find complex prompts and learn how to adapt them to meet the requirements of your assignments, regardless of your area of study. Although we use chatGPT for exemplification, all the methods explained here for academic writing apply to chatGPT and Google Gemini AI.

So, are you ready to turn the page on stress and embrace a smarter way of learning? Let's dive in and unlock your potential!

The first step?
Simply keep reading.



Essentials on AI and Text Generation

01

Text generated by

Large *Language* Models

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To learn how to use AI for your assignments, and get the best of it, you need to first understand what AI is. This may sound like a drag, but if you don't understand how AI "thinks", you won't be able to communicate effectively with the AI and get it to do what you want it to do. You will also produce text that is useless and identifiable as AI-generated.