

Using AI for Peer Review: A Student Guide

Prepared by Melissa Demski for EN1510

Last updated: August 2025

Why Use AI for Peer Review?

AI tools can act like a peer reviewer to help you strengthen your writing. Instead of replacing your work, AI can highlight areas where you can revise and improve. By giving AI clear directions, you make sure it supports your learning rather than doing the work for you.

Tip #1: Treat AI like a container.

Think of AI as an empty container that will work *only* with what you put into it. To get accurate, useful feedback:

- Include everything you want it to look at. (Your essay + the criteria from your MindTap pre-test.)
- Exclude anything you don't want it to consider.
- The clearer and more complete the container, the better the feedback.

Tip #2: Control hallucinations.

AI hallucinations are when the tool invents information that isn't in your text (for example, making up evidence or "correcting" something that wasn't wrong). By giving AI specific instructions and your own text, you reduce hallucinations and keep the feedback focused on your actual work.

Tip #3: Optimize AI feedback.

AI works best when you ask it to:

- Analyze your writing against a clear checklist of goals.
- Suggest specific improvements you can make.
- Provide action steps instead of vague comments.

Tip #4: Practice using prompts (and save them for future use!)

Prompts are specific instructions you revise and hone over time that you will use to tell your AI what you would like it to do for you. With practice, you will be able to generate scripts that produce desired results in a way that is repeatable and scalable.

A very simple 4-part script is attached below. In this class we will work together to craft scripts you can use throughout your academic career to support you at every stage of the writing process.

