

September 2026

Recommended AI statements for CI syllabi

The Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement (SOCR) has heard from many of you seeking guidance on how to adapt communication intensive subjects to this new landscape in which AI tools are an ever-present reality. The recently released report of the [Ad Hoc Committee on AI Use in Teaching, Learning, and Research Training](#) makes clear that more work is to be done across the Institute. SOCR will recommit to this charge and will share additional guidance as appropriate. For now, I share the following guidance on SOCR's behalf.

SOCR continues to **strongly recommend** that all Communication Intensive (CI) subjects taught in AY2027 include syllabus statements defining what constitutes acceptable AI use and why. New subject proposals will also be asked to address the use of AI in the classroom.

To support you in these efforts, this document offers some recommended models. The following are generic templates for statements on acceptable AI use. They are not meant to be prescriptive, and they might not align with every approach to AI in CI subjects. They are intended to be a helpful starting point, and they may be adapted freely by any CI instructor. We also provide a recommended structure for AI statements for anyone who does not intend to use the templates below as their starting point.

It is worth highlighting one of the points made in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on AI Use referenced above: Tools used to detect AI-generated writing are unreliable and therefore not recommended. This means it may be difficult to pursue disciplinary action for violations of AI policy. Instead, the report recommends emphasizing the consequences to students' own cognitive development and their future abilities, as well as the consequences to society and culture of unacknowledged AI use.

Recommended structure for AI statements:

1. What are the goals for this [subject/assignment]?
2. Why AI [does/does not] support this outcome (e.g., we want to teach X, AI does Y and not Z)
3. The policy for this [subject/assignment] is...
4. If you use AI then...
5. Consequences for violation of policy

Possible statements:

Prohibit

A central goal of this CI subject is to help you develop the ability to create effective [written, visual, and/or oral] communication. AI tools have been found capable of generating competent [written, visual and/or oral] communication that does not accurately reflect the ability of the user. For this reason, you are [prohibited | discouraged] from using AI tools in your [describe assignments]. Any work submitted using AI tools may be considered a violation of [academic integrity](#) and referred to the [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) (OSCCS).

Limited use

Since a central goal for this CI subject is to help you develop the ability to create effective [written, visual, and/or oral] communication, you are discouraged from using AI tools to [prohibited uses: e.g. generate text | papers| writing]. They may be used for [allowed uses: e.g. creating images | charts | editing drafts | generating ideas].

Any work submitted using AI tools beyond these acceptable uses may be considered a violation of [academic integrity](#), with the possibility of a referral to the [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) (OSCCS).

Free use with citation

Since a central goal for this CI subject is to help you develop the ability to create effective [written, visual, and/or oral] communication, and AI tools are becoming more valuable in this kind of work, you are free to use AI tools to [allowed uses: generate text | papers| writing | images | creating charts | editing drafts | generating ideas]. You must cite your sources and include a short statement at the end of your draft acknowledging how AI tools were used in this assignment. MIT Libraries offers guidance on citing usage [here](#) and [here](#).

Required use with citation

Since a central goal for this CI subject is to help you develop the ability to create effective [written, visual, and/or oral] communication, and AI tools are becoming more valuable in this kind of work, you are expected to use AI tools to generate [text | papers| writing | images | creating charts | editing drafts | generating ideas]. You must cite your sources and include a short statement at the end of your draft describing how AI tools were used in this assignment and your reflection on the extent to which they added value. MIT Libraries offers guidance on citing usage [here](#) and [here](#).

Changes to communication assignments

Some instructors have expressed interest in trying new assignment designs and/or pedagogical interventions to adapt to AI. While modes of communication are rapidly shifting and periods of experimentation are becoming essential, SOCR emphasizes the importance of maintaining the spirit of the CI criteria. In particular, this includes a continued focus on iteration and revision, inclusion of oral communication where appropriate, and use of authentic genres in each discipline.

The following Covid-era advice remains appropriate:

Start with your learning objectives and work backward from there. The general desired outcomes for CI-HW subjects can be found [here](#), those for CI-H subjects can be found [here](#), and those for CI-M subjects can be found [here](#). Be flexible about both the quantity and the modality of what students produce. If your subject typically includes a mix of written and oral communication (i.e. in many CI-M subjects), we recommend trying to maintain a similar balance between these two modes, even as the exact parameters of assignments may change.

We have already been hearing from some of you. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with questions or concerns (commreq@mit.edu).

On behalf of the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement

Co-chairs in AY2026-27:

- Professor Caitlin Mueller, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture
- Professor Jack Spencer, Philosophy

Dr. Kathleen MacArthur, Executive Officer to SOCR

Linked resources:

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on on AI Use in Teaching, Learning, and Research Training

<https://aiandeducation.mit.edu/>

Teaching Guidance for the Fall 2026 Semester from the Faculty Chair

<https://facultygovernance.mit.edu/communications-chair>

AI in Teaching & Learning

<https://tll.mit.edu/teaching-resources/course-design/ai-in-teaching-learning/>

Academic Integrity at MIT

<https://integrity.mit.edu/>

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

<https://studentlife.mit.edu/policies-and-resources/office-of-student-conduct-and-community-standards/>

Citing AI tools:

<https://libguides.mit.edu/cite-AI-tools>

Citing AI tools: Saving AI content for replication and citations

<https://libguides.mit.edu/c.php?g=1353444&p=9994954>