"If AI is a tool, then how is using it cheating?

There is a difference between using a resource to help you study or gather your thoughts for an assignment and having it write all or parts of it for you. So, what qualifies as ethical use of AI for students, and when does it fall into cheating territory?

Using AI unethically looks like:

Completing assignments: Students might input their homework or essay questions into ChatGPT and submit the generated responses as their own work.

Feeding it test questions: During an online test, a student could use ChatGPT to answer questions for them, especially if there is no proctoring system in place.

Copying content: Utilizing AI to paraphrase content from the internet or other sources makes it difficult for plagiarism detection tools to identify misconduct, but it still falls under academic dishonesty.

Skipping the learning process: Relying on AI for quick answers without attempting to understand the material being reinforced.

Using AI for school the right way looks like:

Research assistance: Utilizing ChatGPT to sift through given research, generate ideas, or understand complex topics, which can then be used as a starting point for a student's own work.

Writing aid: Using an AI tool like Grammarly to help proofread and edit assignments for grammar, punctuation, and style, while the student actively learns from the corrections and suggestions.

Study buddy: Prompting AI to create flashcards, practice quizzes, or explain difficult concepts in a different way to aid in studying and knowledge retention.

Creative inspiration: Using AI to brainstorm ideas for projects or papers, helping to overcome writer's block or spark creative thinking.

Learning new skills: Using AI to learn coding, languages, or other skills through interactive lessons and personalized feedback.

Did you know… AI chatbots like ChatGPT are language learning models and can't discern between fact and fiction, so they may respond to your questions with inaccurate data or facts? It's called hallucinating, and it's why it's best to use AI as a jumping-off point more than a way to gather information on a topic for a school assignment."

Ambrosio, Lauren. "How to Use AI in School Without Cheating: The Line Between Helpful Study Tools and

   Academic Dishonesty." *Student Life Blog*, PennFoster.edu, 15 Nov. 2023,

   www.pennfoster.edu/blog/is-using-ai-to-write-an-essay-cheating.