

## Why We Do Not Use Generative AI

The Science, Technology, and Public Policy (STPP) program does not use generative AI to create text or images for our publications, and to the best of our ability, we do not publish GenAI produced work created by others. There are many reasons not to use GenAI in your work as students. Some that are particularly salient to STPP's community partnerships and policy work are:

### Accuracy

Generative AI tools [are frequently wrong](#). They produce [incorrect answers to simple direct questions](#); they [change the meaning when summarizing text](#); and they [introduce bias when they produce images](#). One of the major contributions that STPP provides our partners is to compile and synthesize technical research to support evidence-based policymaking on a wide range of issues. Partners have used our work to shape legislation, argue for budget amendments, and set policy priorities. It has to be accurate.

### Trust

One of the core maxims STPP has learned from our community partners is to “move at the speed of trust.” We have developed long-term, collaborative partnerships by taking trust seriously. GenAI undermines trust in [multiple ways](#). When you enter information into a GenAI tool, you [cannot trust it to keep that information private and secure](#). When it produces text or images, the flat tone and smooth finish often identifies it as AI, which can be offputting and [make readers question the validity of the work](#).

### Costs

Though many of these tools remain free for individuals to use, they have high environmental and societal costs. They consume tremendous amounts of [energy](#) and [water](#), demand the extraction of [rare earth minerals](#), produce [carbon emissions](#) and other air pollution, and pass along many of those impacts to [lower-income communities](#). GenAI has also enabled an explosion in online [disinformation](#) and [scams](#) and provided an excuse for [mass layoffs](#).

### Copyright and plagiarism

GenAI models' training data include [enormous troves of copyright-protected](#) text, images, audio, and video. The companies producing these tools did not ask for permission and did not pay a licensing fee. Furthermore, because GenAI frequently reproduces material from its training data in response to queries, users [risk plagiarizing past work](#) without any way to provide attribution.

### Learning

Using AI deprives you of opportunities to build the critical thinking and communicating skills you are here to learn. Writing is thinking. So are editing, reading, summarizing, and staring at a blank page. One popular metaphor is that using AI as a student is like using a forklift at the gym. The point is not to lift the weights up and down. The point is the muscles you build from the effort of lifting them.