

Where's the Line?

Using AI honestly in ASL class — what's fine, what to ask about, and what isn't okay.

AI is allowed in this class as a **research tool**. That means it helps you find and understand information. It does not do your thinking, your writing, or your signing. Here's where the lines fall.

● GREEN — GO AHEAD, NO PERMISSION NEEDED

- Looking up background on a Deaf person, event, organization, or invention
- Checking a date, a spelling, or a name
- Getting a term or concept explained in simpler language
- Brainstorming a list of possible topics for a project
- Generating practice or review questions to quiz yourself
- Asking it to explain something your textbook said confusingly

● YELLOW — ASK YOUR TEACHER FIRST

- Having AI outline or structure a project for you
- Having it summarize an article that you're then supposed to analyze
- Using it to fix the grammar or wording of writing you already wrote yourself
- Using it to generate images or graphics for a presentation
- Using it to translate something into or out of another spoken language for an assignment

Yellow doesn't mean “bad.” It means the answer depends on what the assignment is measuring. Just ask.

● RED — NOT OKAY IN THIS CLASS

- **Having AI write your reflection, opinion, or response.** If the assignment asks what *you* think, AI cannot supply it.
- **Turning in AI-generated text as your own writing.** That's plagiarism, same as copying a classmate.
- **Using AI-generated gloss as your signing assignment.** See the box below — this one is specific to ASL and it matters.
- **Asking AI to describe a sign you were supposed to learn from a signer.** You'll learn it wrong, and it will show.
- **Using AI-generated signing avatars or animations** as a model for how to sign.
- **Sharing AI information with the class as fact without checking it.**
- **Not saying you used it** when you did.

The ASL-specific rule you can't skip. ASL is a visual, three-dimensional language with no standard written form. What AI produces when you ask for “ASL” is English word order dressed up in capital letters — it is not ASL, and it routinely gets grammar, classifiers, and facial markers wrong. Gloss AI hands you is not a script you can sign from. Any signing assignment has to come from real models, real practice, and real feedback.

HOW TO CREDIT AI WHEN YOU USE IT

One line at the end of your work is enough. Something like:

“I used [AI tool] on [date] to find background information on [topic]. I verified it using [source], and the analysis and writing are my own.”

If AI got something wrong and you caught it, **say that too** — it shows you did the harder half of the work.

TWO QUESTIONS THAT SETTLE ALMOST EVERYTHING

ASK YOURSELF	WHAT THE ANSWER TELLS YOU
“Is this assignment measuring what I <i>know</i> , or what I can <i>find</i> ?”	If it's measuring what you can find, AI is a fine place to start. If it's measuring what you know, understand, or believe — that has to come from you.
“Would I be comfortable telling my teacher exactly how I used AI here?”	If yes, you're almost certainly fine. If you'd want to hide it, you already know the answer.

The bottom line: Using AI is not cheating. Hiding it is. Letting it replace your own thinking — or a real Deaf signer — is where this class draws the line.