

# From Detection to Direction: Reframing Teaching, Learning, and Academic Integrity in a Postplagiarism Era

University of Toronto Mississauga

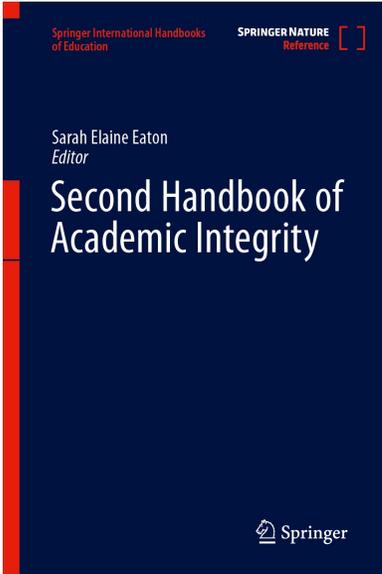
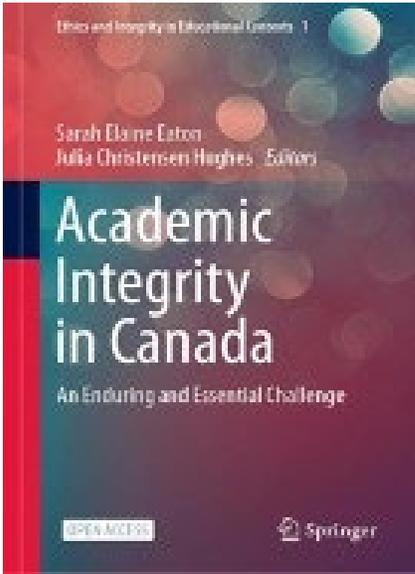
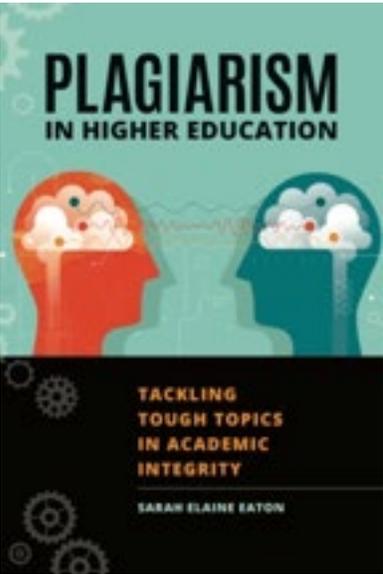
Ready, Set... Teach!

August 18, 2025

Sarah Elaine Eaton, PhD



# Provenance of this work...



NB: I have presented some content previously.



# Academic Integrity and Generative Artificial Intelligence

Complex questions with solutions that remain under development.

Educators all over the world are concerned with ethical questions related to GenAI. You are not alone.

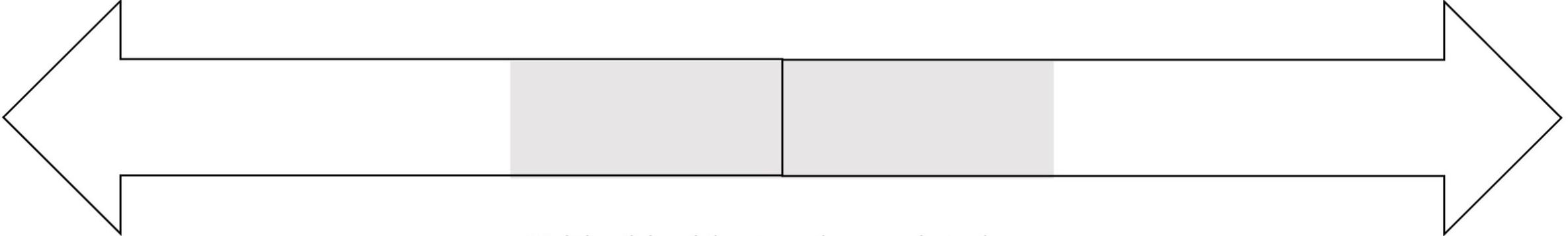
We will not solve these questions today or even this year, and yet we are being called upon to provide relief and responses.

# The Academic Integrity Continuum

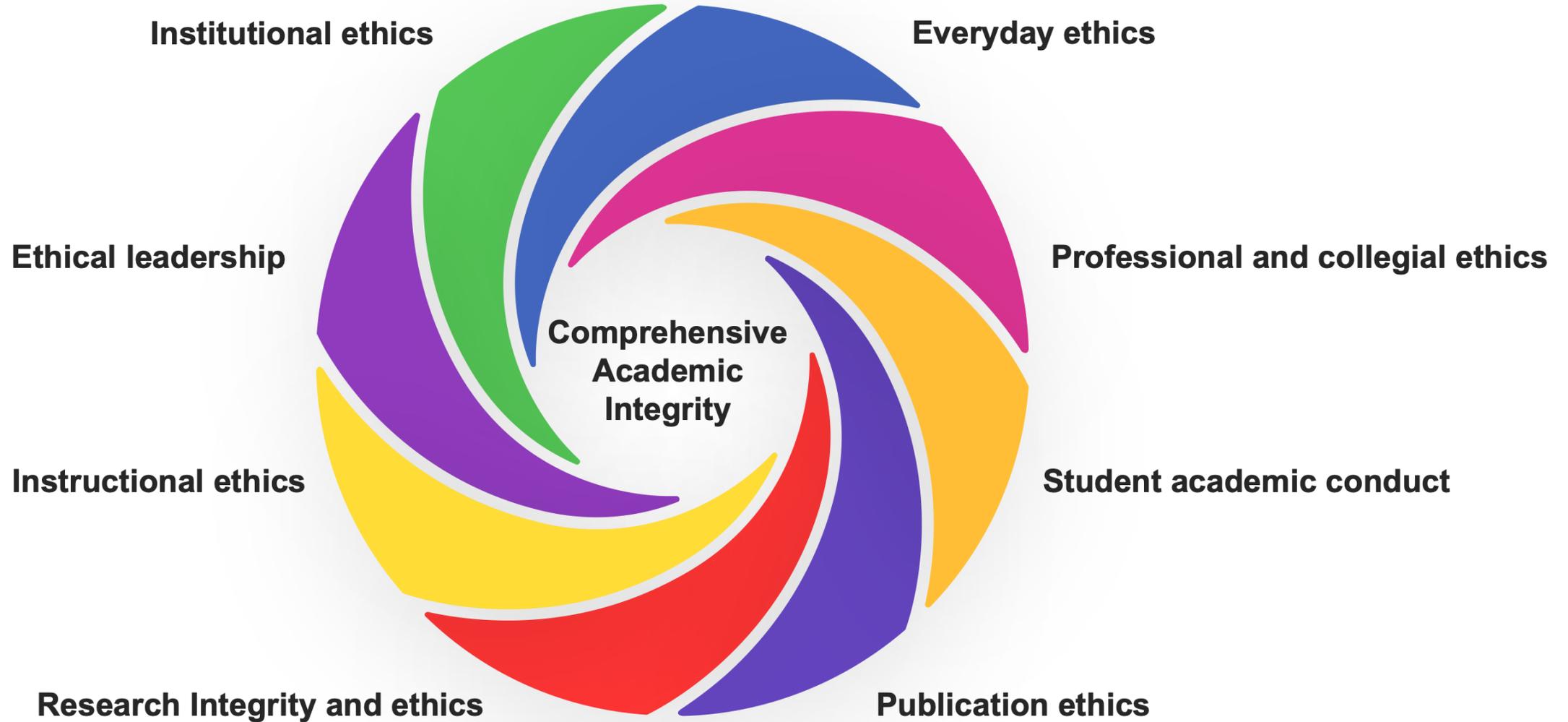
Eaton, Pethrick, & Turner (2021)

Academic integrity breach:  
Investigation, case management,  
hearing(s), sanction(s), appeal(s)

Academic integrity: Education, skill-  
building and communication of  
expectations



Critical incident and associated  
grey area: Identification of alleged  
or actual breach and initial steps



Eaton 2024

# Academic Integrity: U.S.-Based Schools of Thought

Eaton & Fishman (2024)

<b>School of thought</b>	<b>Examples of notable US-based contributions to academic integrity scholarship (an incomplete list)</b>
<b>Values and Morality</b>	Bertram Gallant (2008); McCabe (1992, 2006), McCabe et al. (2006); Rettinger (2006)
<b>Skill development</b>	Howard (1995, 1999, 2001); Jamieson (2013); Panning Davies & Howard (2016); Robillard (2008)

# Reflection Question

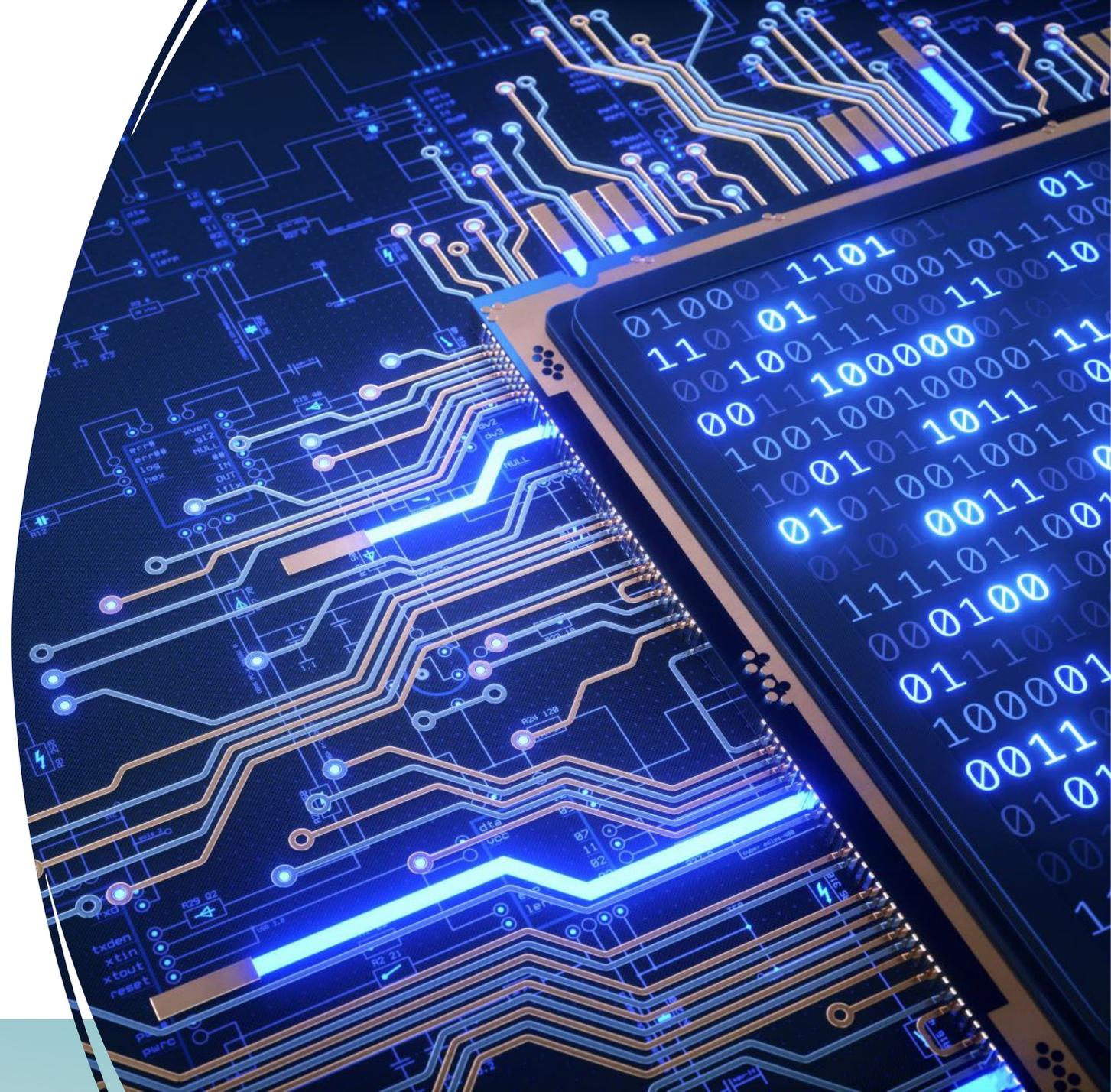
How do you view  
academic integrity?

For you, is academic integrity  
a matter of morality / character  
or a skills development issue?

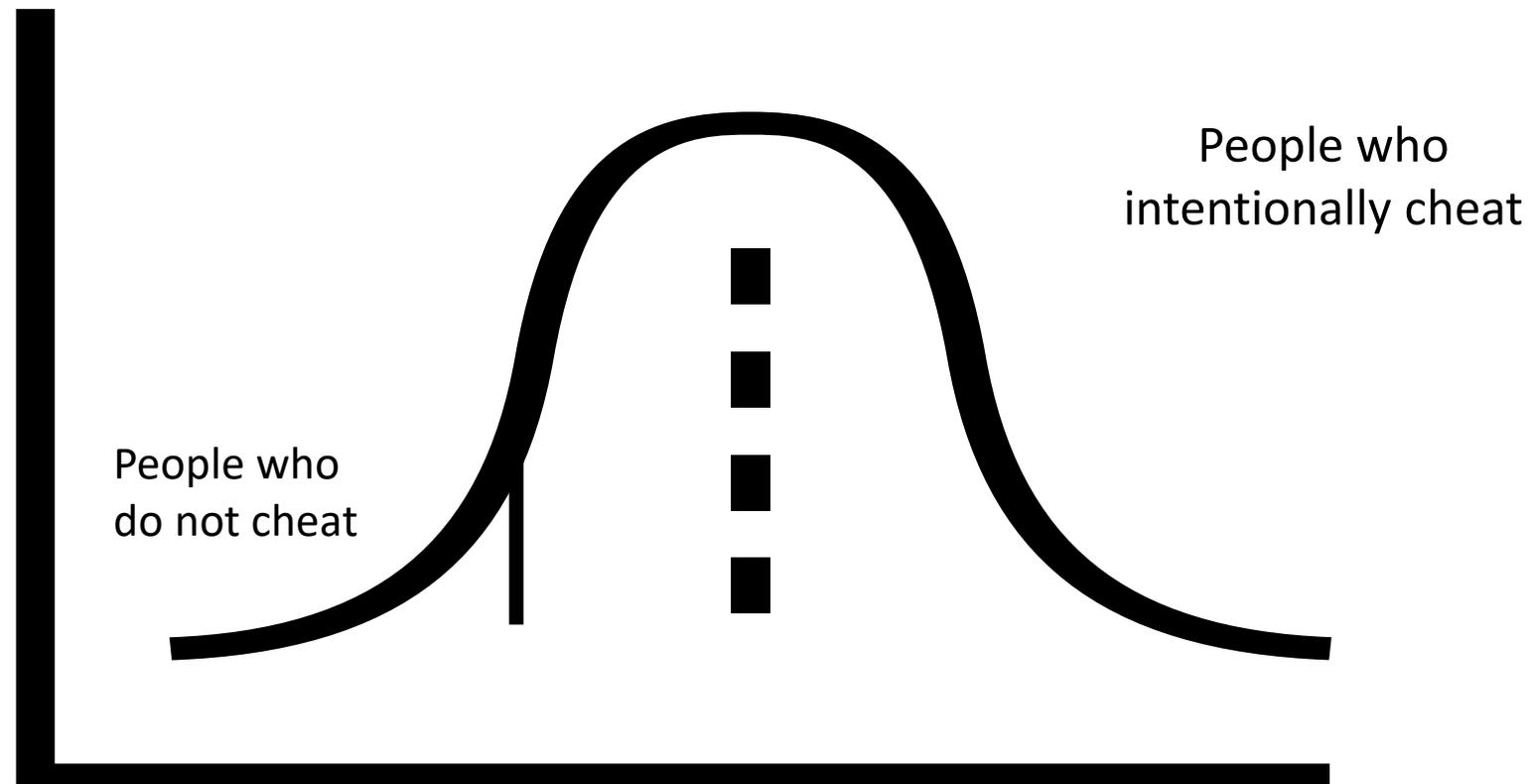


# Artificial Intelligence is here to stay

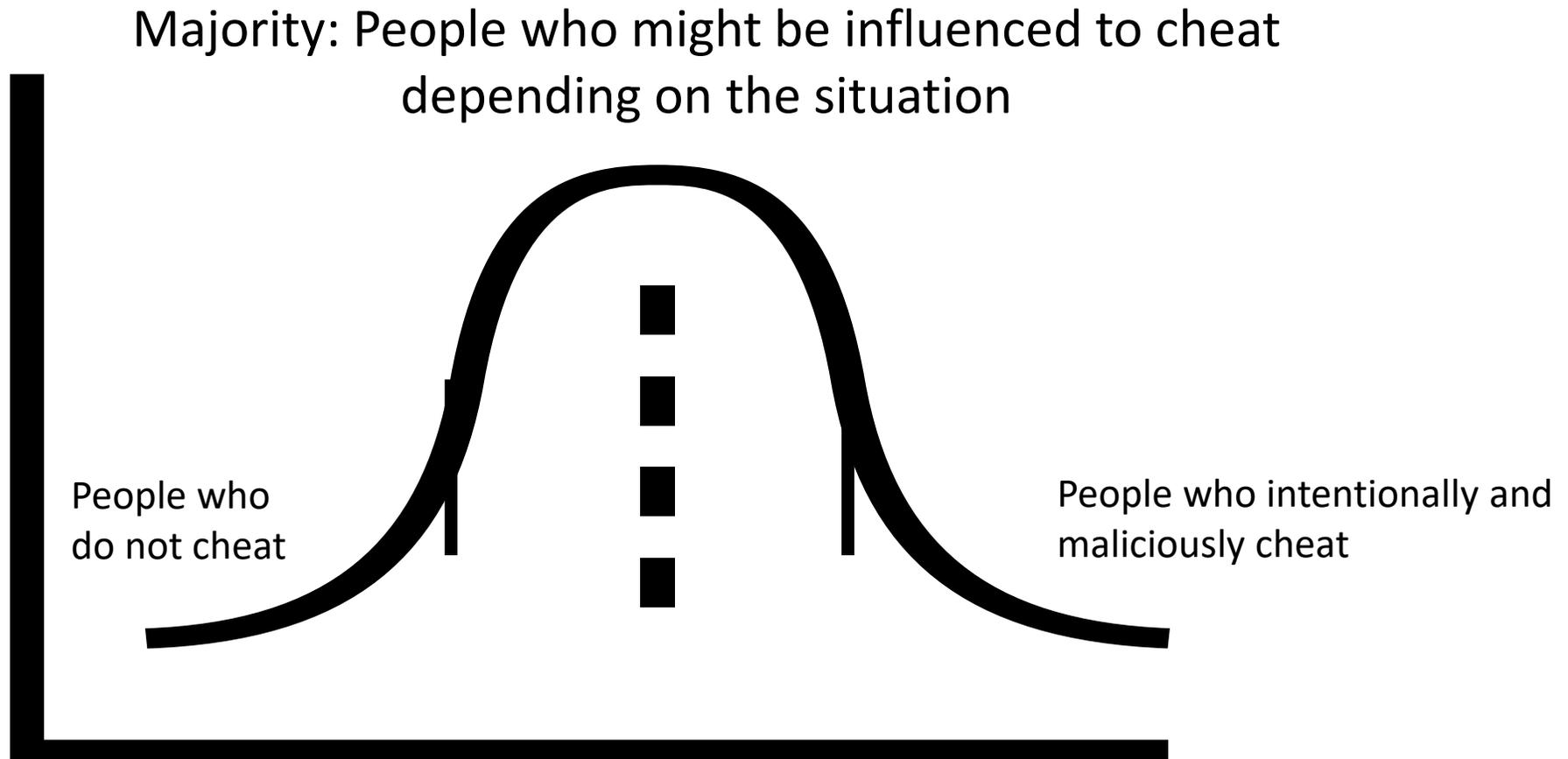
If we want students to be workforce ready when they graduate, we must teach ethical use of artificial intelligence across the curriculum.



# Bell curve of cheating behaviours: Skewed bias



# Bell curve of cheating behaviours: Normal distribution



# **The Sisyphean Cycle of Technology Panics**

“Technology panics—times in which the general population is gripped by intense worry and concern about a certain technology—are influential and reoccurring. Current worries about new technologies are surprisingly similar to concerns about technologies that have preoccupied parents and policymakers in the past but are met with amusement today.”

(Orben, 2020, p. 1144)

10. The world did not end when it was introduced.

9. Kids are not stupid as a result.

8. Young minds are not corrupted.

7. Moral turpitude did not become the norm.

6. No massive job losses or economic collapse.

5. Learners still need great teachers.

4. Human creativity continued to thrive.

3. Panic subsides.

2. Eventually it becomes part of everyday life.

1. We wondered how we ever lived without it.

# 10 Things we Know About Past Technologies

Inspired by Orben's (2020) work.

# Past Technologies that Created Societal Panic:

1940s

- Radio

1950s

- Television

1990s

- Internet

## Reflection Question

What is a technology that caused panic in your experience before GenAI?



# Key message

We want students to use AI to supplement their learning, not to circumvent it.

# 6 Tenets of Postplagiarism: Writing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Sarah Elaine Eaton 2023

In [\*Plagiarism in Higher Education: Tackling Tough Topics in Academic Integrity\*](#) (2021) I introduced the idea of life in a postplagiarism world. Here, I expand on those ideas.

## Hybrid Human-AI Writing Will Become Normal

Hybrid writing, co-created by human and artificial intelligence together is becoming prevalent. Soon it will be the norm. Trying to determine where the human ends and where the artificial intelligence begins is pointless and futile.

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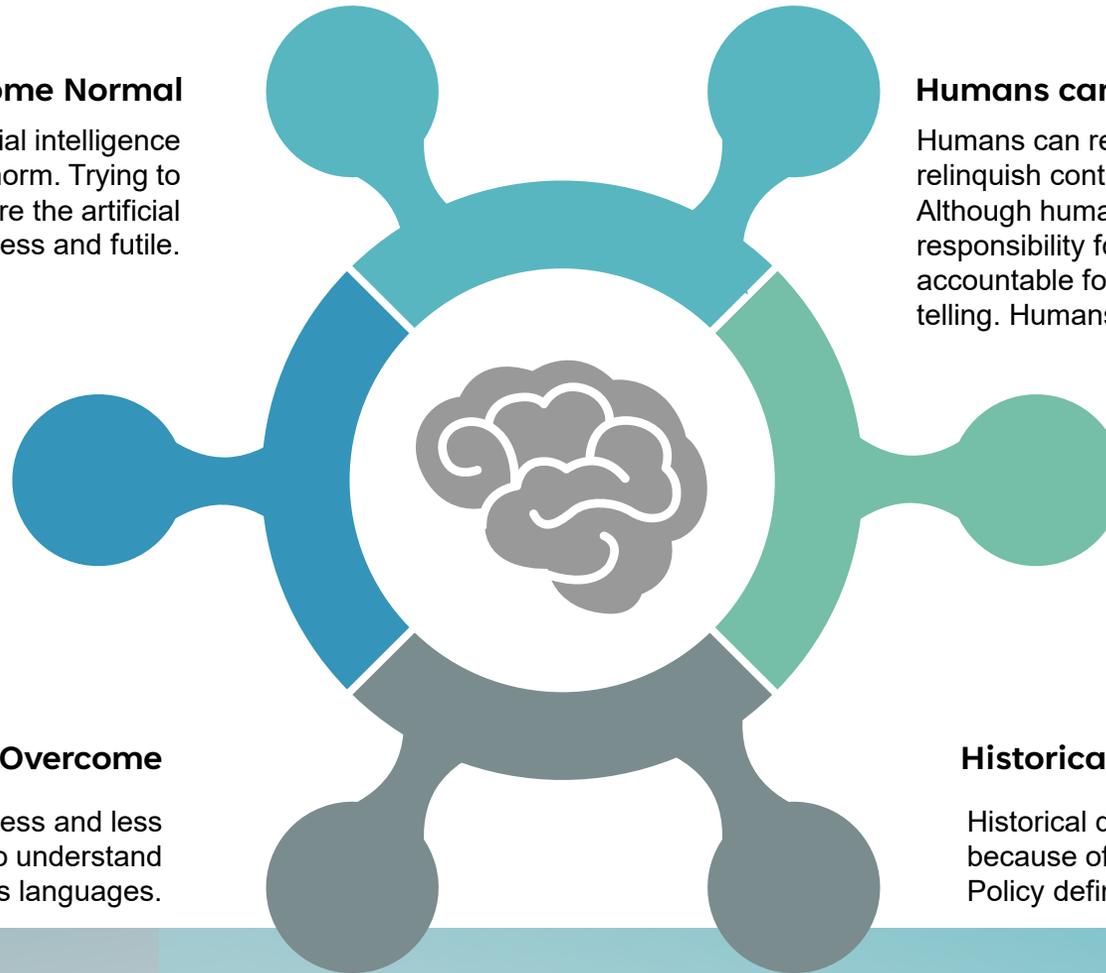
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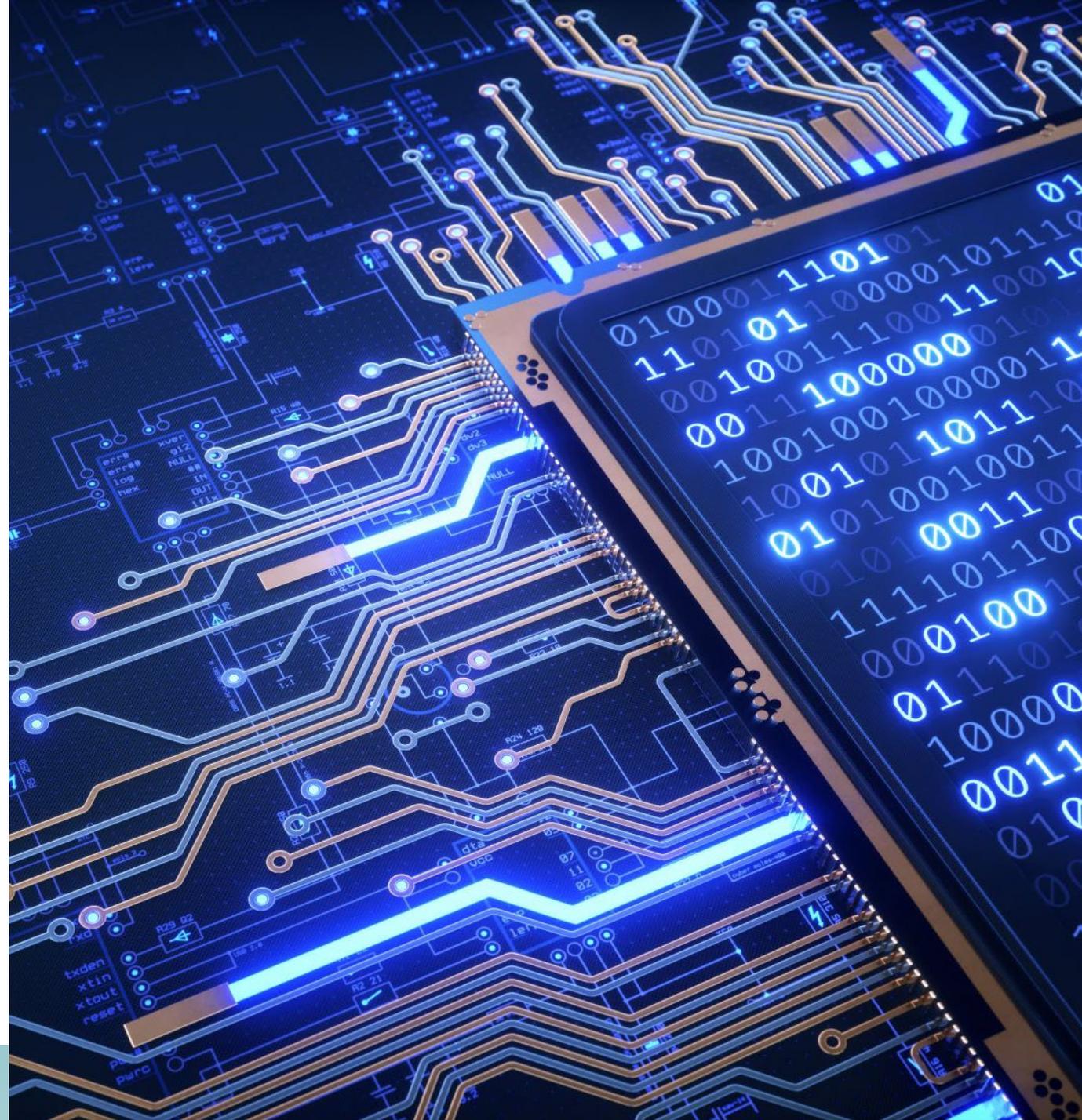
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# Postplagiarism

Postplagiarism refers to an era in human society in which advanced technologies are a normal part of life, including how we teach, learn, and interact daily.



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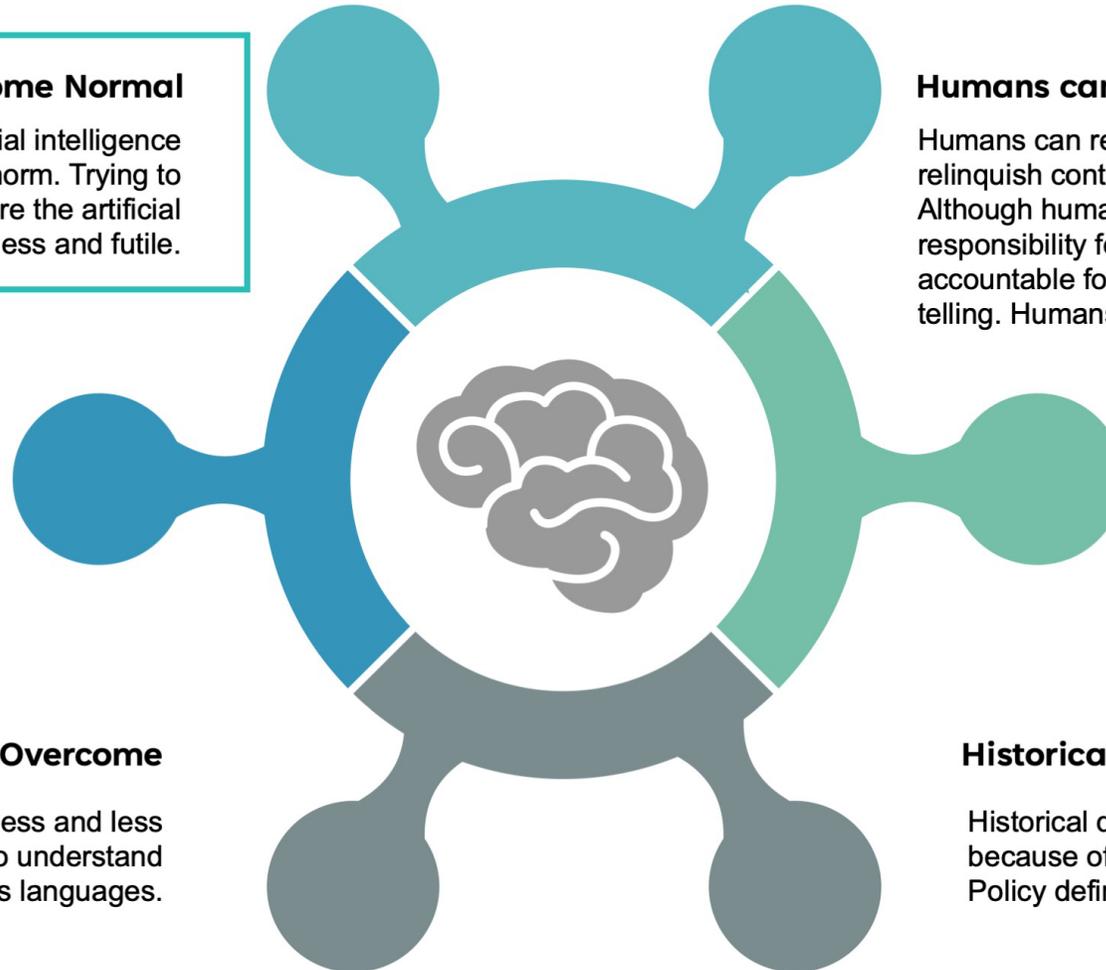
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## New Technology

Excitement, confusion, eagerness, resistance, worry, and other reactions.

## Teaching, Learning (and Cheating)

Teachers and students figure out how to use the new tech for teaching, learning, cheating, and more.

# Academic Integrity Arms Race

Infographic designed by  
Sarah Elaine Eaton  
May, 2023

## Students Find Workarounds

Students find hacks and share ideas about how to beat the anti-cheating technology.

## Anti-Cheating Tech

More tech is developed to catch students using technology to violate academic integrity. Often marketed as a solution to academic misconduct.

# Differences between Text-Matching Software and AI-Detection Software\*

## Text-Matching Software (TMS)

TMS can detect textual similarities through text-matching algorithms applied to databases.

Main databases: Web pages, journal articles, periodicals, and other publications, as well as work submitted previously by the students.

The content generation capabilities of AI challenge TMS.

AI Detectors are trained with human texts.

Approaches: Statistical, watermark-based, classifier-based, and retrieval based.

Results are typically provided in percentages, scales, or binaries to indicate the presence or absence of AI-generated content.

## AI-Detection Software

\* Eaton et al. (2020); Elkhatat et al. (2023); Liu et al. (2023); Sadasivan et al. (2023); Weber-Wulff (2016); Weber-Wulff et al. (2023); Zhou et. al. (2024).

# Limitations of AI Generated Text Detectors\*

AI detectors show false positives and false negatives.

Also, researchers have identified variations in sensitivity and specificity.

Paraphrasing, machine translation, human editing,  
or use of GPT-4 can lower AI detectors' efficacy.

\* Anderson et al. (2023); Elkhatat et al. (2023); Foltýnek et al. (2023); Gegg-Harrison & Quarterman (2024); Liu et al. (2023); Sadasivan et al. (2023); Waltzer et al. (2023); Weber-Wulff et al. (2023).

The promise of academic  
cheating detection software  
will always fail  
because cheating  
is not a technology problem,  
it is a human one.

*(Eaton, 2025)*

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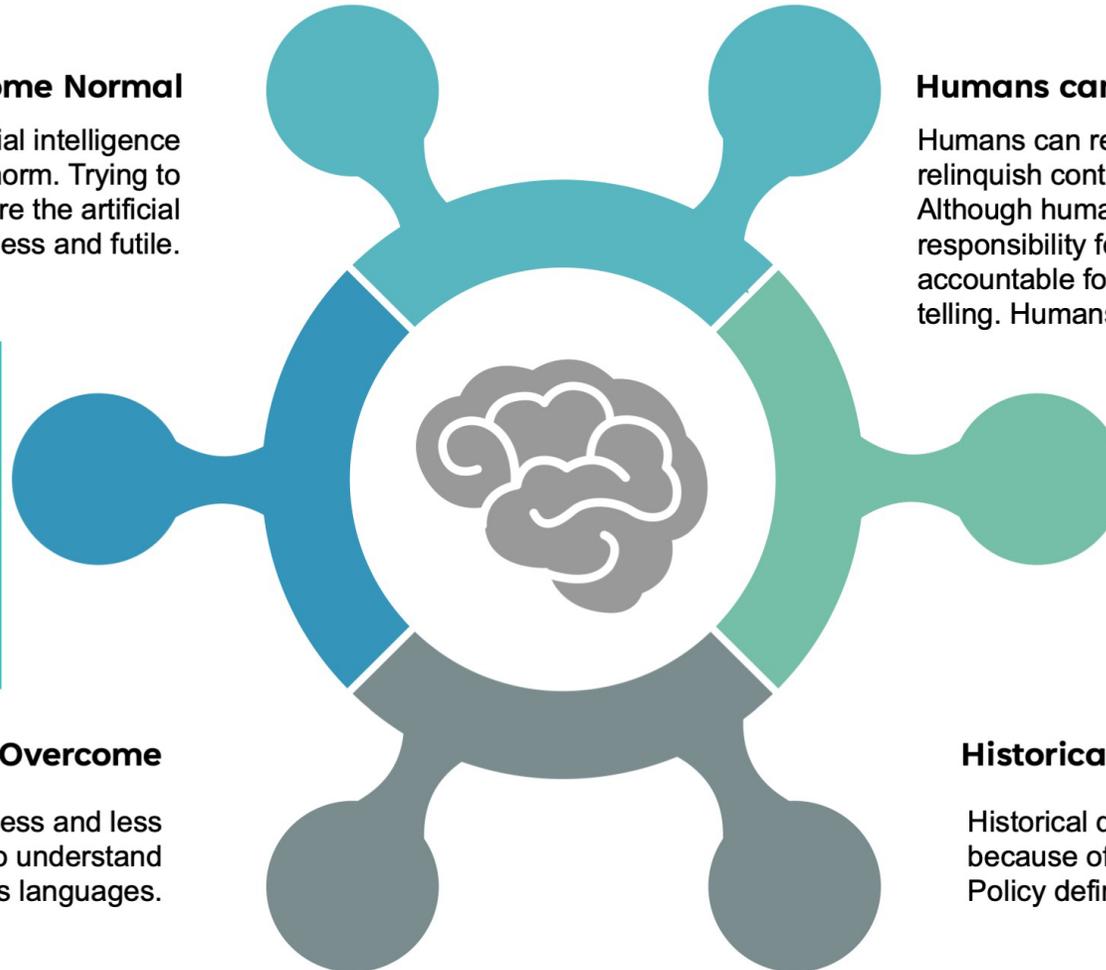
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# Decouple the concept of human *Creativity* from that of a *Creative Career*.

## Analysis

### How Hollywood writers triumphed over AI - and why it matters

*Dani Anguiano and Lois Beckett in Los Angeles*

Observers hail a 'smart' deal that allows for artificial intelligence as a tool, not a replacement - and could be a model for other industries



One of the longest strikes in Hollywood history came to an end this week after the writers' union and studios came to a deal. Photograph: Jae C Hong/AP

## POLICY REFLECTION: HOW GENERATIVE AI IS REVOLUTIONIZING THE CREATIVE PROCESS AND WHAT POLICYMAKERS CAN DO TO ENSURE ARTISTS ARE PROTECTED

March 29, 2023



Photo by Tara Winstead, Pixels.

By Jaimaha Bepko, Policy Advisor, OCAD University

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FEATURE

### Creative workers say livelihoods threatened by generative AI

Computer Weekly speaks with various creative workers about the impact generative artificial intelligence systems are having on their work and livelihoods

By Adele Walton Published: 15 Mar 2024

Your Data

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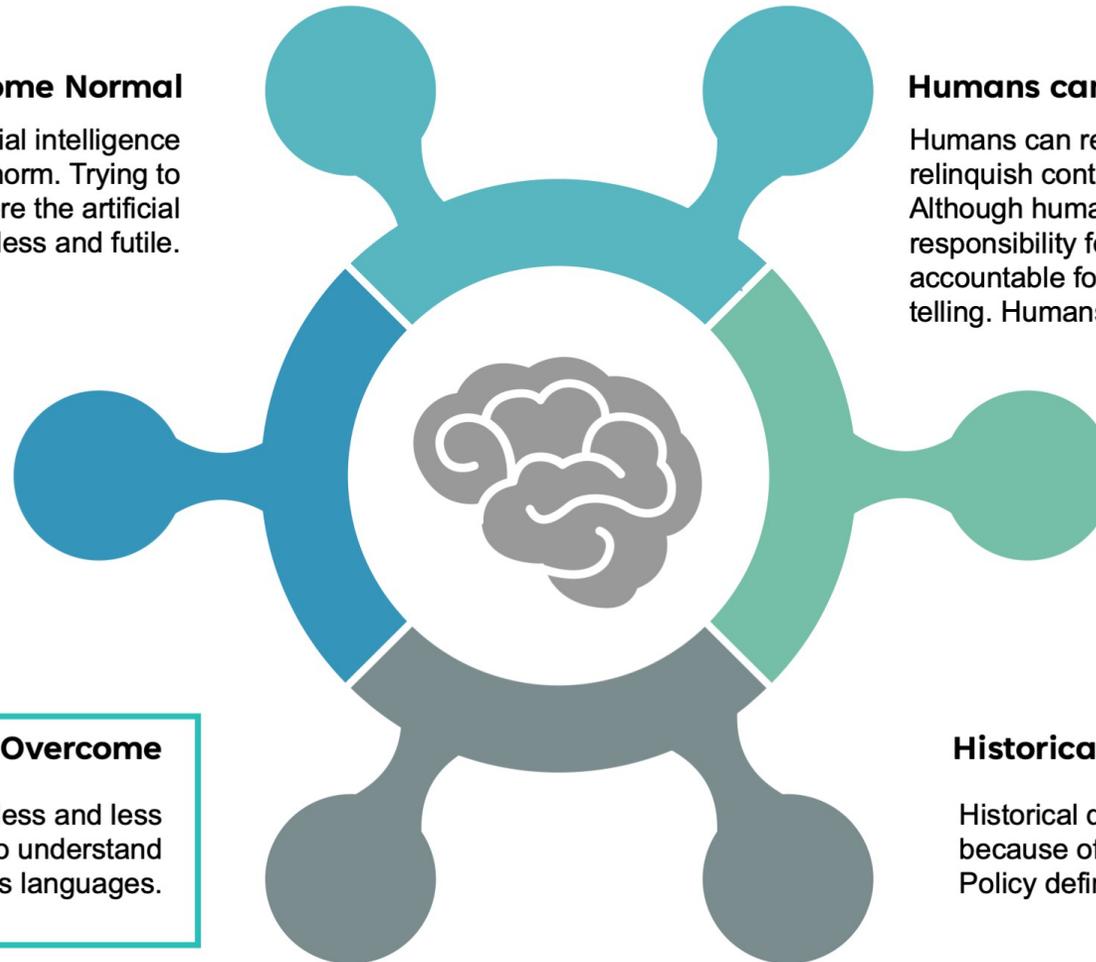
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# Wearable AI – The next wave of tech gadgets?

<https://www.axios.com/2023/10/04/ai-wearables-meta-humane-tab-rewind>

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Oct 4, 2023 - Technology

## Companies race to make AI you can wear

Ina Fried, author of [Axios AI+](#)

f X in ✉



Images of three new AI wearables from Rewind, Meta and Humane. Photos courtesy Rewind.ai, Meta, and Justin Shin/Getty Images

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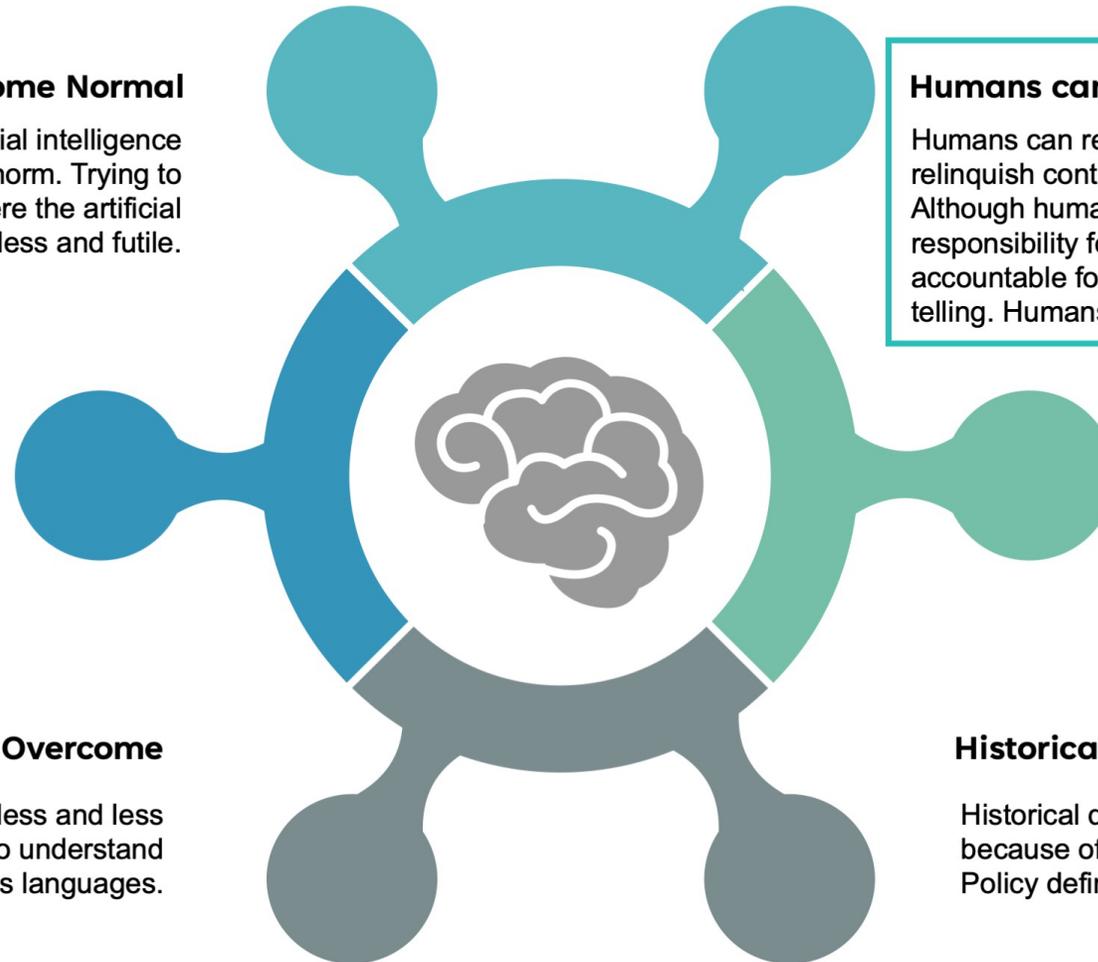
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**Look for evidence of *learning*,  
rather than evidence of *cheating*.**

1. What does quality look like in your discipline?
2. What competencies, skills, and knowledge show mastery of a subject area?
3. How do your assessments help students showcase their learning?

# 3 Methods to Address Misconduct

Punitive	Educative	Restorative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime and punishment approach.</li><li>• Sanctions should be fair and fit the offense.</li><li>• Progressive discipline model. Second and subsequent offences result in harsher penalties.</li><li>• Relatively easy to track and monitor.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehabilitative.</li><li>• Provides opportunities for students to learn.</li><li>• Builds skills.</li><li>• Seeks to reduce recidivism.</li><li>• Easy to track some aspects (e.g., workshops attended, self-reported learning, rates of recidivism.)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seeks to repair harm.</li><li>• Focus on community-building and long-term relationships.</li><li>• Can be time-intensive.</li><li>• All parties should agree to the approach (not appropriate in cases where there is no willingness to accept responsibility).</li></ul>

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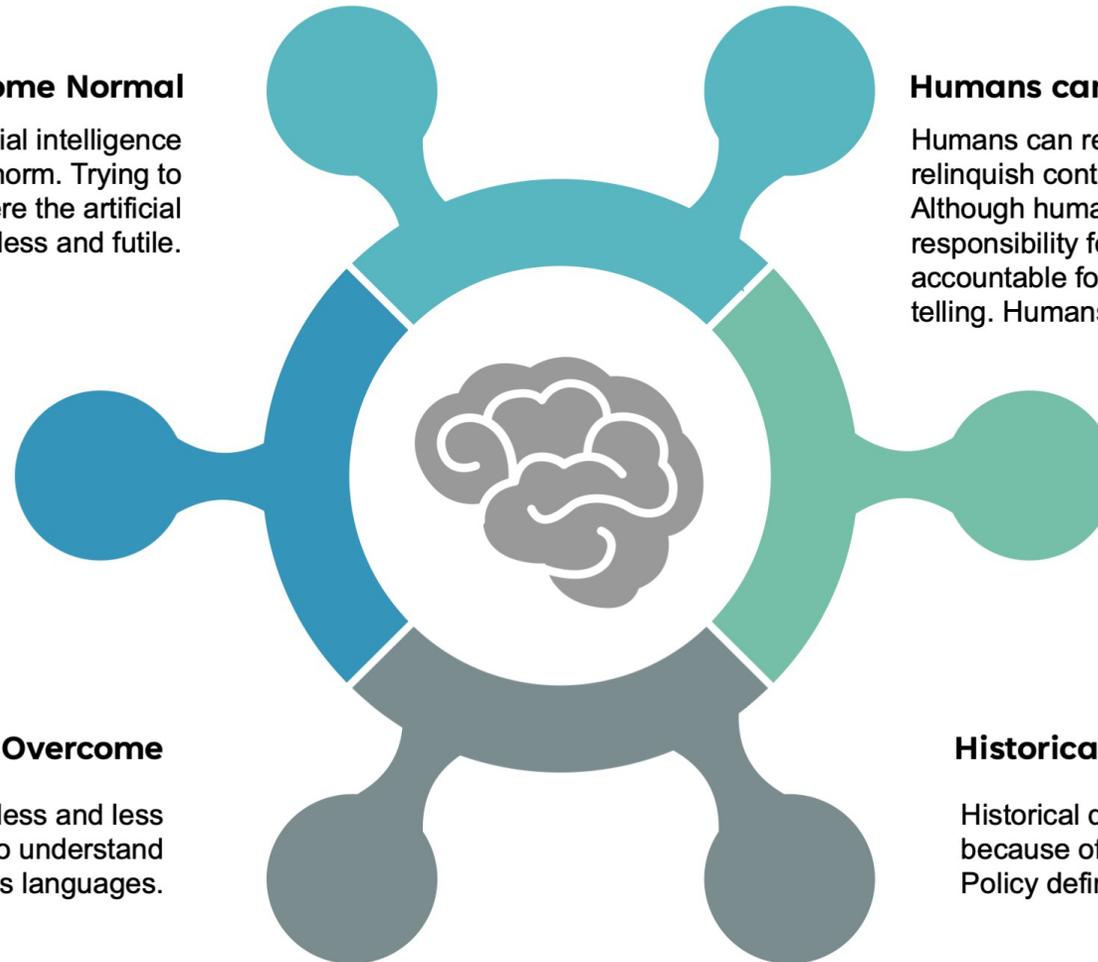
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# Attribution versus Citation: Is there a difference?

Attribution	Citing and Referencing
Asks: How do I know what I know? Who did I learn from? Who did they learn from?	Asks: How can I learn and demonstrate the technical norms of a prescribed style manual?
Requires: Meta-cognitive awareness and evaluative judgement (e.g., Bearman & Luckin, 2020; Fischer et al., 2024; Tai et al., 2018)	Requires: Rule-compliance, applied skill, attention to detail
Is taught and evaluated: Through shared collective understanding, communal expectations, relational coaching	Is taught and evaluated: Using style guides, checklists, and technical rubrics

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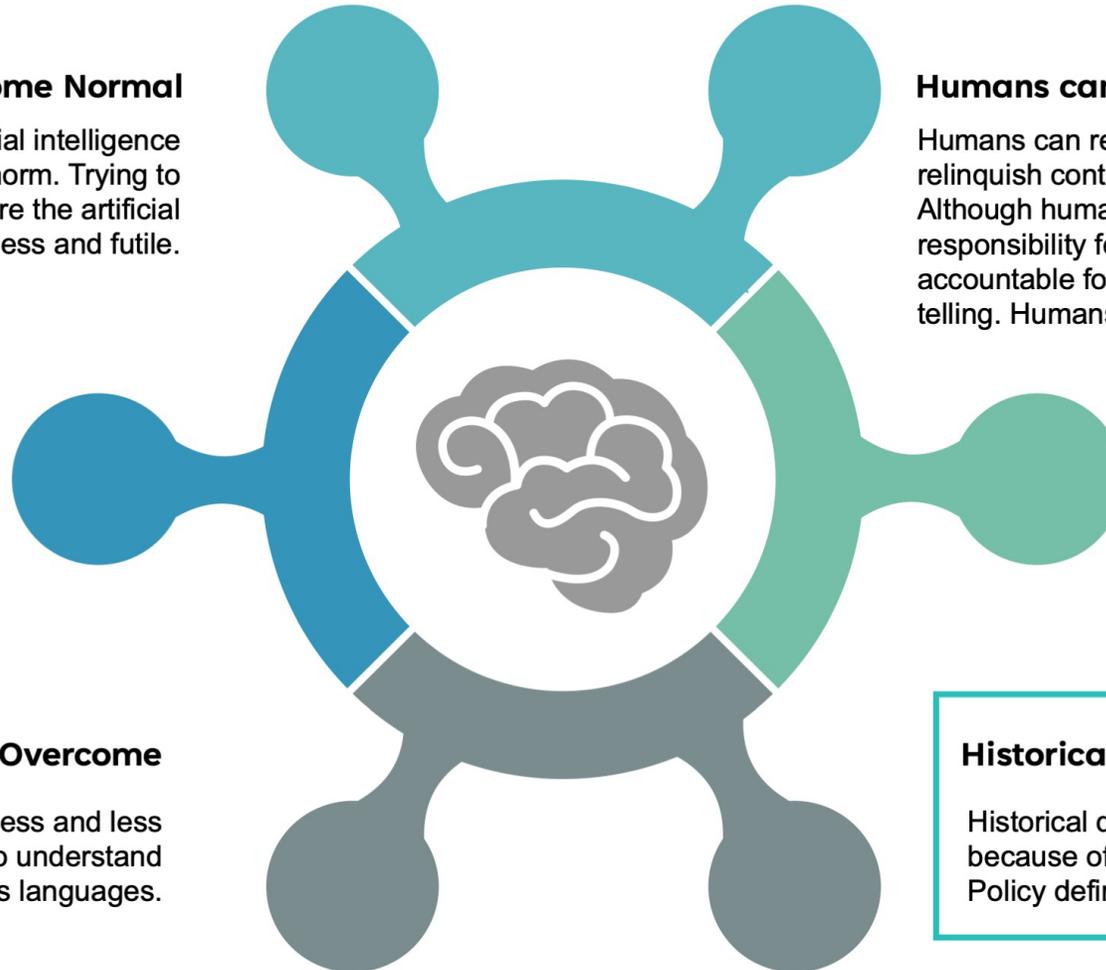
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# Augmenting Excellence

If students have used AI to supplement their learning, ask them to reflect on, and show evidence of how the end product is:

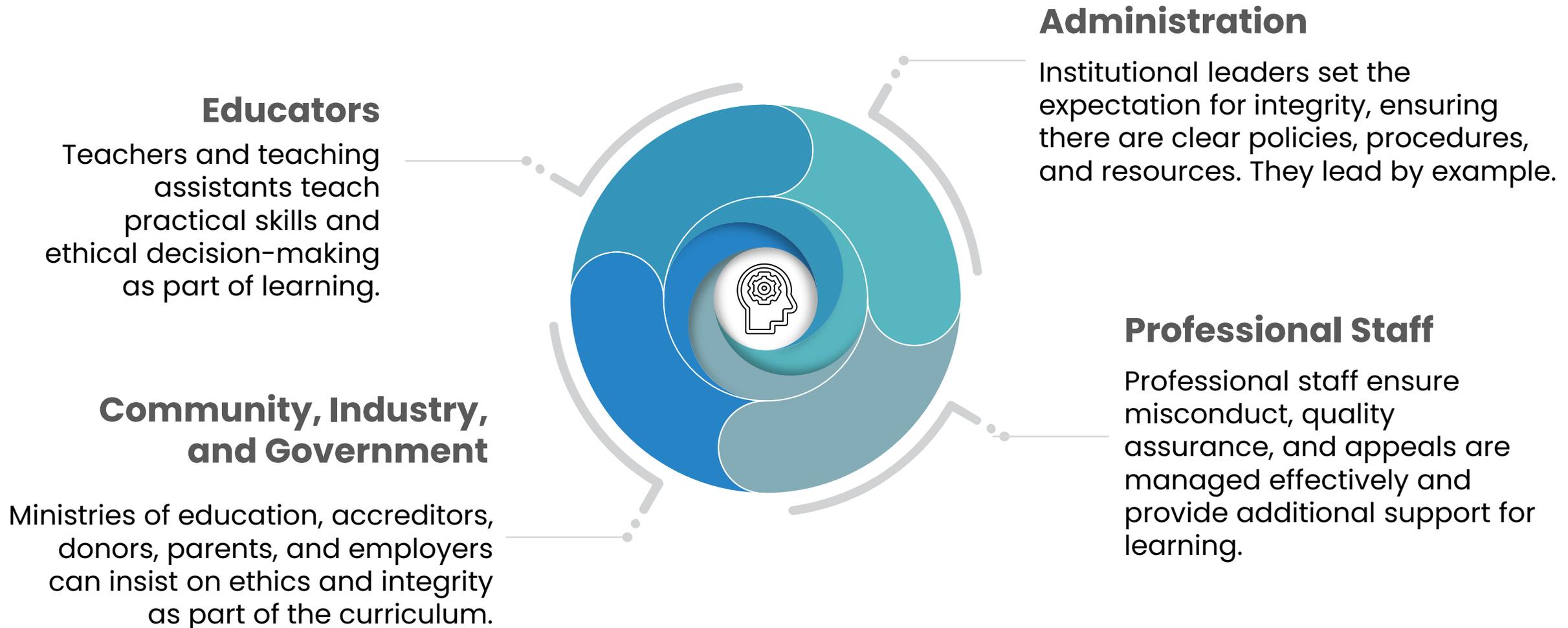
- Better than what AI could have generated on its own.
- Better than what the student could have produced on their own.

Help students understand that quality matters, their ideas and experience matters, and the tools they use are most effective when they also have mastery over the tool itself.

# A Wraparound Approach to Academic Integrity

Students are at the centre of everything we do.

Sarah Elaine Eaton, PhD



# Call to action: Getting our priorities straight...

01

Prioritize  
compassion  
over content.

02

Prioritize  
decency and  
dignity over  
deadlines.

03

Prioritize  
pedagogy  
over  
punishment.

# Reflection Question

How can you prioritize your students' *humanity* this academic year?



# Students: Stewards of Our Future



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# Contact me

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