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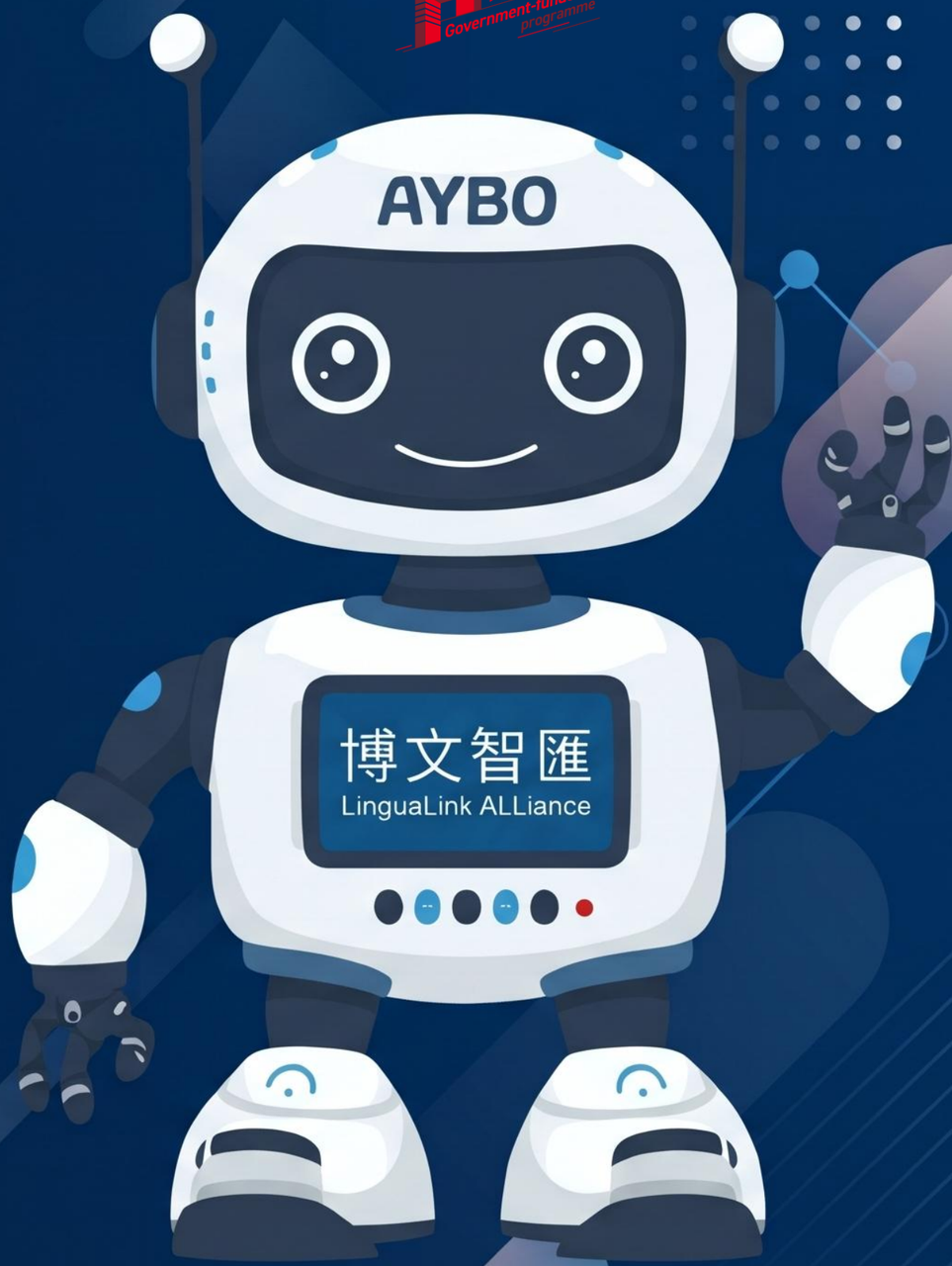
AI-BASED LANGUAGE LABORATORY 人工智能語言實驗室

政府資助計劃 Government-funded programme

Paraphrasing, Academic Integrity & Citation Techniques

Dr. Grace Leung, Ms. Cecilia Yuen, Ms. Helen Tam



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Today’s workshop

- What is academic integrity?
- How to protecting your academic integrity?
  - ✓ Paraphrasing
  - ✓ Citation and Referencing
- How Aybo can support you ethically?

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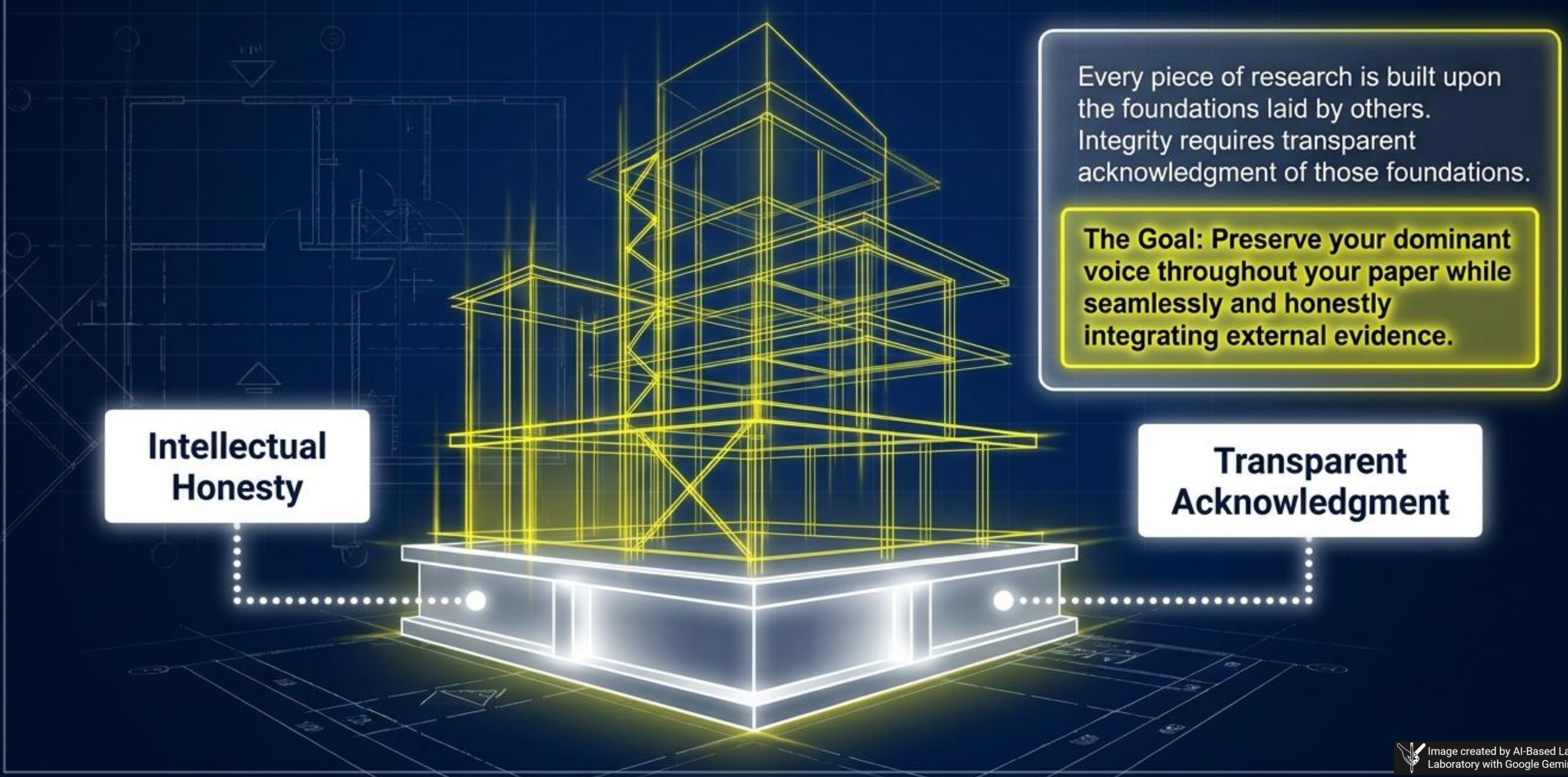
Academic Integrity is the Bedrock of Scholarly Work



Every piece of research is built upon the foundations laid by others. Integrity requires transparent acknowledgment of those foundations.

The Goal: Preserve your dominant voice throughout your paper while seamlessly and honestly integrating external evidence.

Intellectual Honesty

Transparent Acknowledgment

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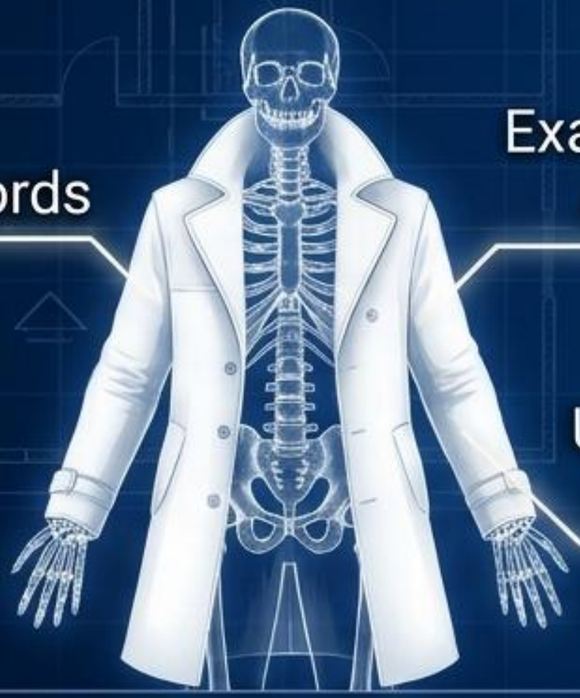
Understanding Quoting

A direct quotation uses an author's exact words and structure.
It is a vital tool for academic integrity, but requires careful use.

Exact Words & Structure



The Quotation Requirement

"

Placing quotation marks around them

Adding a formal citation (e.g., [Author, Year, p. X])

"

You shouldn't rely on it too much because putting too many quotes together **hides your own voice** and shows **less original interpretation**.

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The Illusion of Patchwriting

Changing the "clothes" (words) does not change the "skeleton" (syntax).
True paraphrasing requires an entirely new skeleton to support the core idea.

Original Source



Patchwriting



Swapping a few synonyms while keeping the original sentence architecture is not paraphrasing. **It is mosaic plagiarism.**

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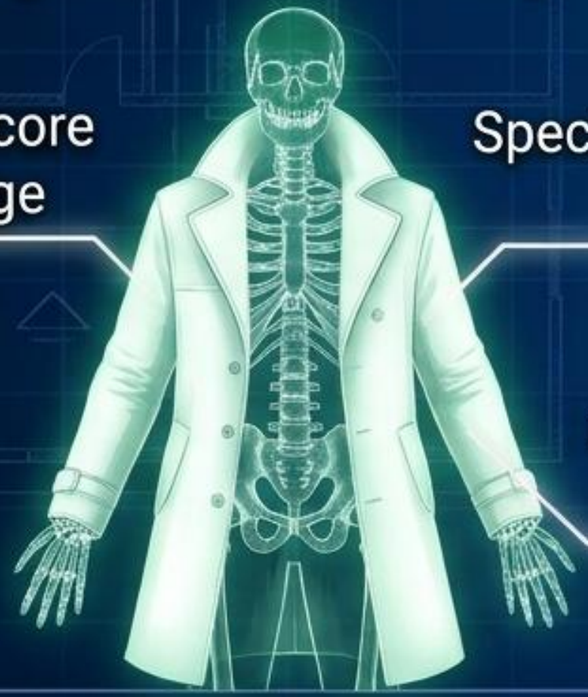
Understanding Paraphrasing

Successful paraphrasing uses an author's core ideas but transforms the words and sentence structure entirely. It is a vital tool for academic integrity, requiring complete re-authoring, but must avoid mosaic plagiarism.

Original Idea & Key Info



The Paraphrasing Process

1. Expressing the idea in a new, distinct vocabulary
2. Creating a completely different sentence architecture
3. Adding a formal citation (e.g., [Author, Year, p. X]).

Successful paraphrasing demonstrates full **mastery** of the source, showcasing your **unique voice** while respecting the original author's contribution.

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GOOD OR BAD PARAPHRASES?



SCAN TO JOIN

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The Spectrum of Source Integration

	Quoting	Paraphrasing	Patchwriting
Word Match	Exact match	None	High (Synonym swapping)
Structure Match	Exact match	Completely new	Exact match
Length	Same	Roughly the same	Same
Integrity Status	✓ Valid (Requires quotes)	✓ Valid	✗ Plagiarism

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Beware of Distorting the Claim

An acceptable paraphrase faithfully represents the original scope, qualifiers, and limitations without adding new opinions or removing vital context.

If the original text is highly specific, your paraphrase cannot accidentally generalize it.

Original Source



Unacceptable Paraphrase



Generalizing a specific claim.

Correct Paraphrase



Perfect fidelity to the meaning.

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Original

"Integrating mobile applications into daily language learning activities can enhance student engagement and vocabulary retention."

Source: Stockwell, G. (2010). Using mobile phones in vocabulary acquisition for English language learners. Language Learning & Technology, 14(2), 95–110.

Option A: Language learners who use educational apps on their phones are guaranteed to achieve higher test scores and master vocabulary faster than non-users (Stockwell, 2010).

Option B: Incorporating smartphone apps into routine practice helps students stay motivated and better remember new vocabulary words (Stockwell, 2010).

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The Architect's Process: Deconstruct & Rebuild

A sentence is merely a structure holding an idea. To paraphrase, you must extract the idea, tear down the original walls, and build a completely new structure from scratch.



The Source ⋯⋯▶ **The Core Idea / The Foundation** ⋯⋯▶ **The Paraphrase**

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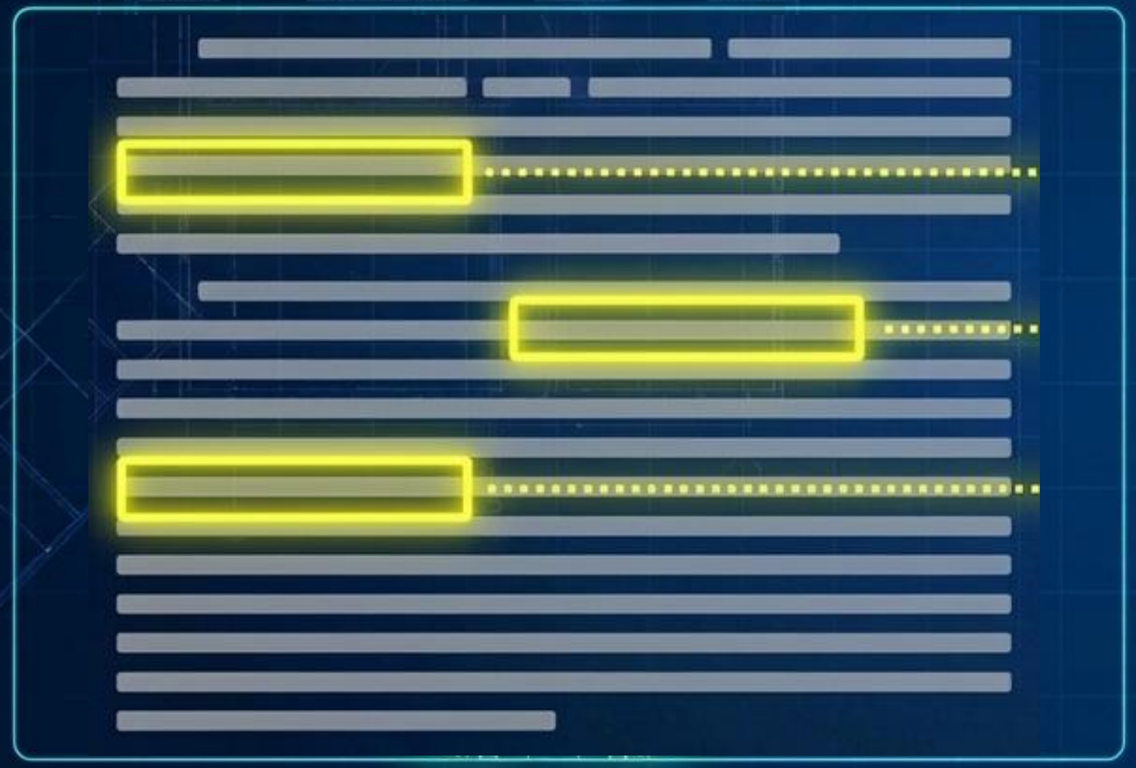
Which 5 steps?



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5 Steps

The Source Zone



Step 1 & 2: Read & Note

The Brain Zone



Step 3: Draft Blindly

Step 4: Compare (The Visual Bridge)

Step 5: Cite
(The Final Stamp)

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Deconstruct the Source

1. Read the passage multiple times until the meaning is fully absorbed.
2. Note down only the absolute key concepts (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How).
3. Leave the original grammar, transitions, and phrasing behind.



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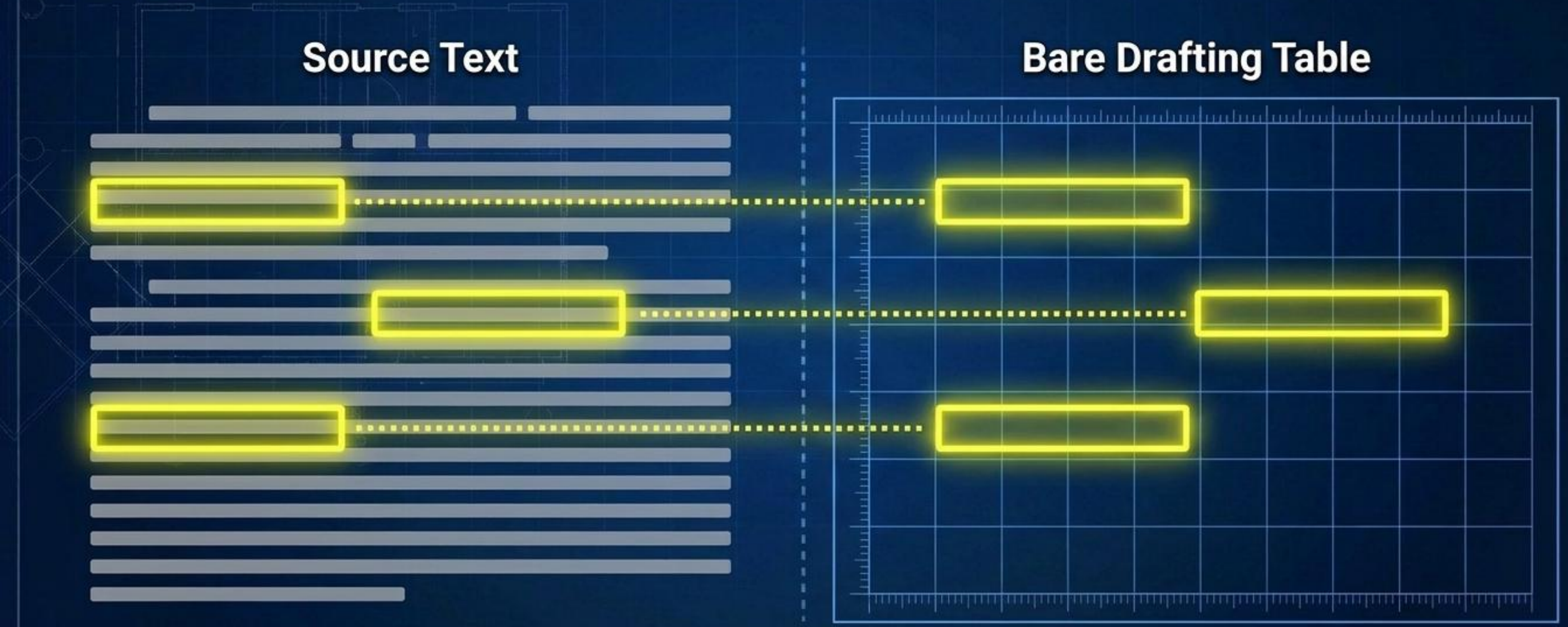

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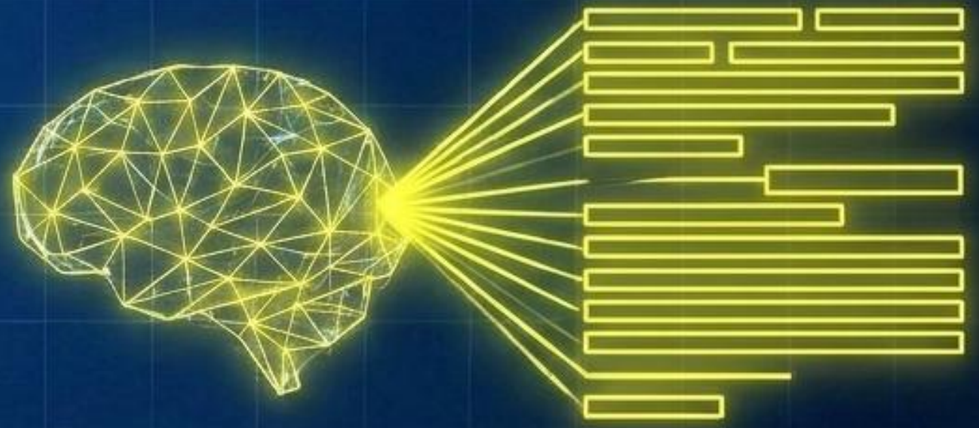
The Blind Draft

Put the source out of view.
Close the tab, minimize the PDF, or turn the book face-down.



Write the idea from your own understanding, as if explaining it to someone else.

Because you construct the sentence from your mental model rather than editing existing text, the structure is naturally your own.



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The Drafting Toolkit



Use Synonyms: Swap individual words, but ensure the new words carry the exact same weight.



Change Parts of Speech: Turn nouns into verbs, or adjectives into adverbs.



Change the Sentence Structure: Break long sentences into smaller ones, or combine fragments.



Switch the Voice: Shift from active voice to passive voice, or vice versa.

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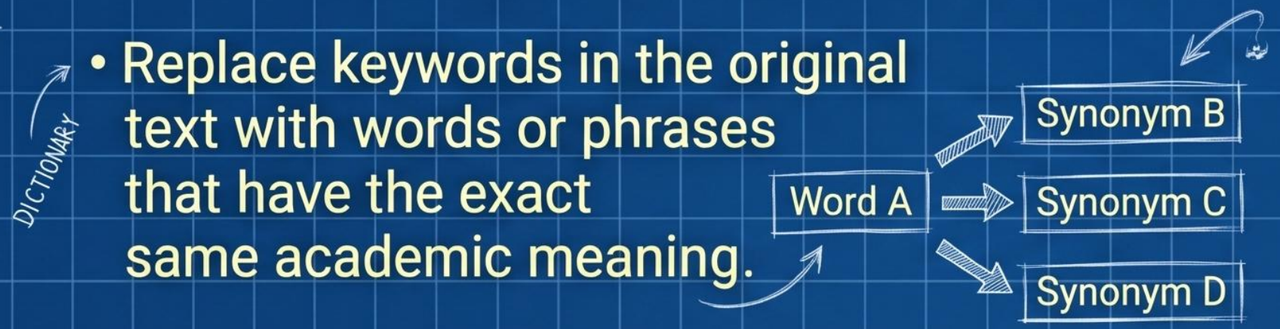
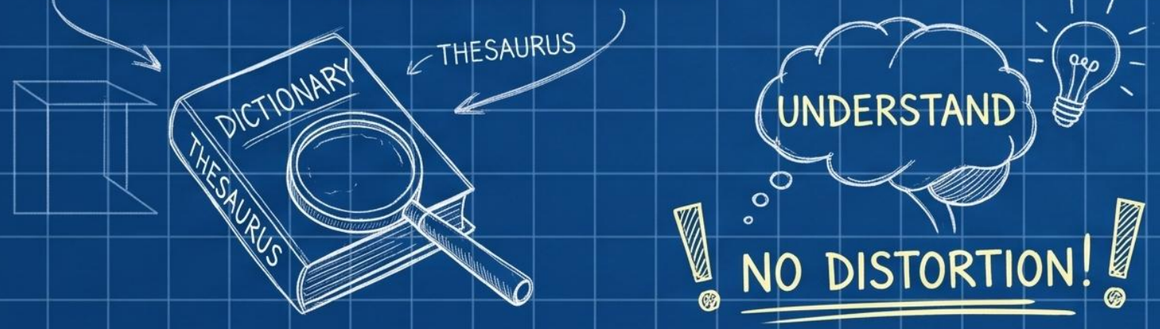
HOW TO PARAPHRASE EFFECTIVELY

TIP 1: USE SYNONYMS

- Replace keywords in the original text with words or phrases that have the exact same academic meaning.



- Remember: choose words you fully understand so you don't distort the original claim or sound unnatural!



EXAMPLES

Original:
Regular physical activity prevents several **chronic diseases**.

Rewrite:
Consistent exercise reduces the likelihood of developing various **long-term health conditions**.

HOW TO PARAPHRASE EFFECTIVELY

TIP 1: USE SYNONYMS

Original:
Sleep deprivation significantly impairs cognitive performance.

Rewrite:
Lack of sleep severely weakens mental processing abilities.

EXAMPLES

Original:
Artificial intelligence writing tools provide useful scaffolding for non-native writers.

Rewrite:
AI text generators offer valuable learning support for ESL students.

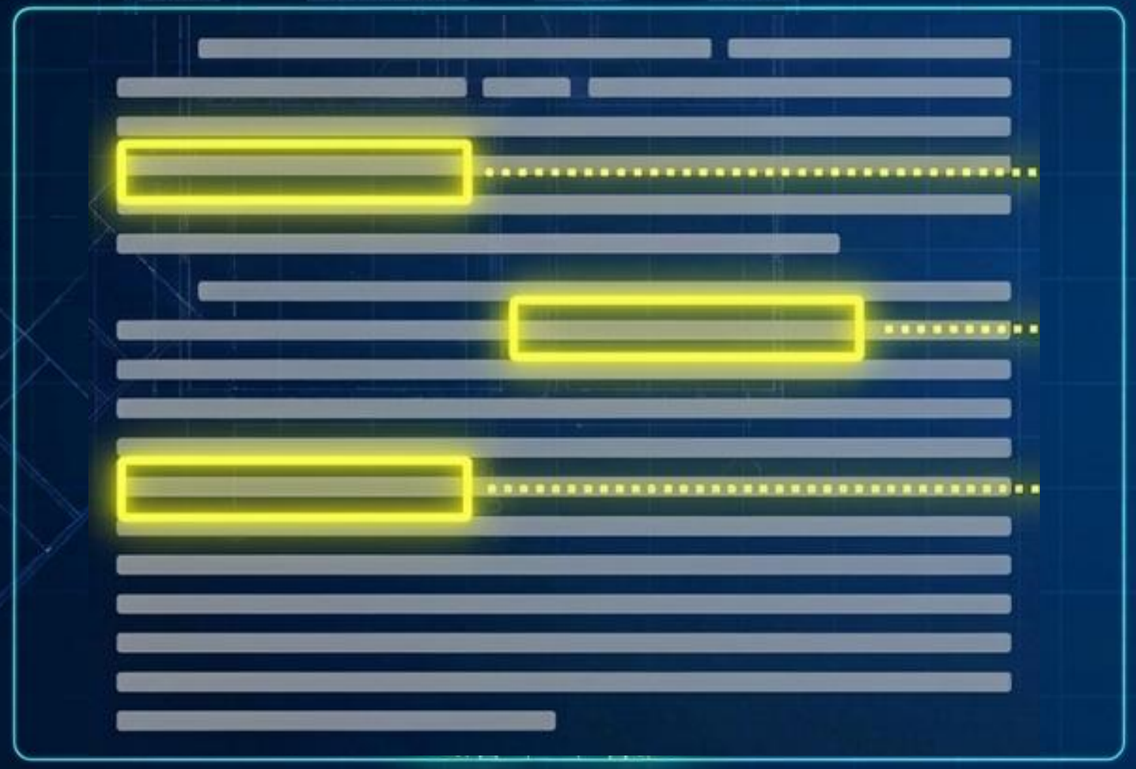
TIP 2: CHANGE THE PART OF SPEECH



Original:
Social media spreads unverified info during health crises.

Rewrite:
During public health emergencies, unverified info spreads easily via social media.

Paraphrase the given text



SCAN TO JOIN

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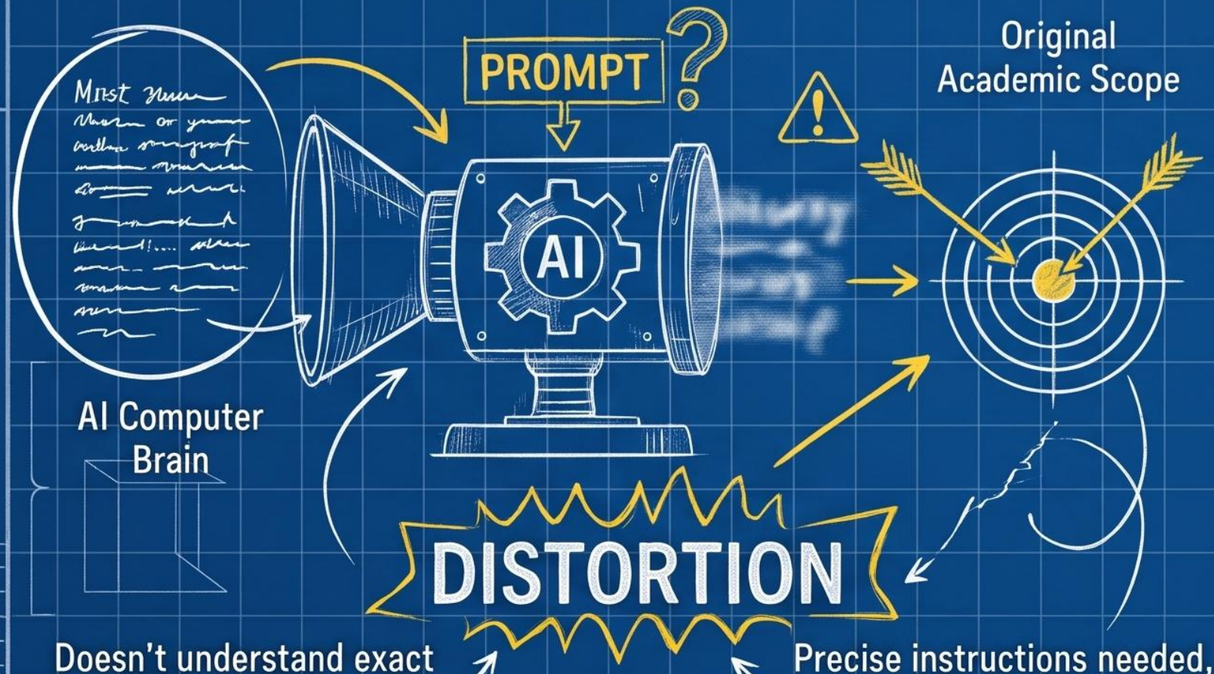
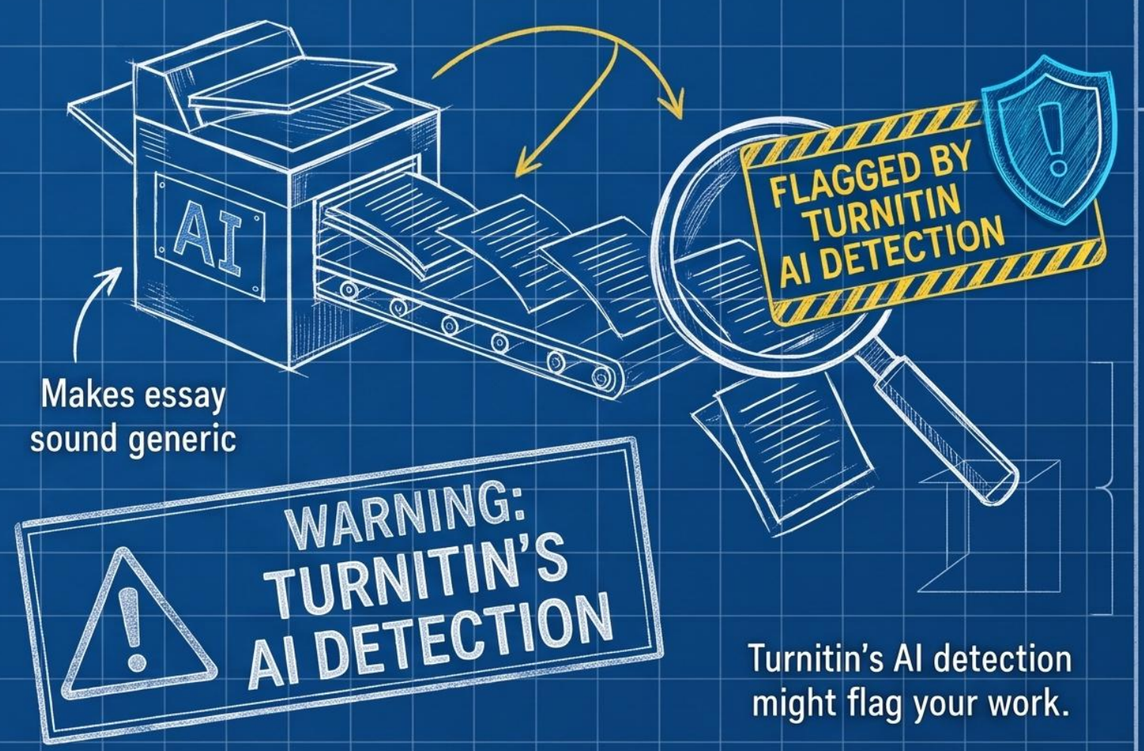
THE TRAPS OF AI PARAPHRASING

TRAP 1: PROMPTING TRAPS



TRAP 2: AI-GIARISM



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Learner-centred AI Collaboration



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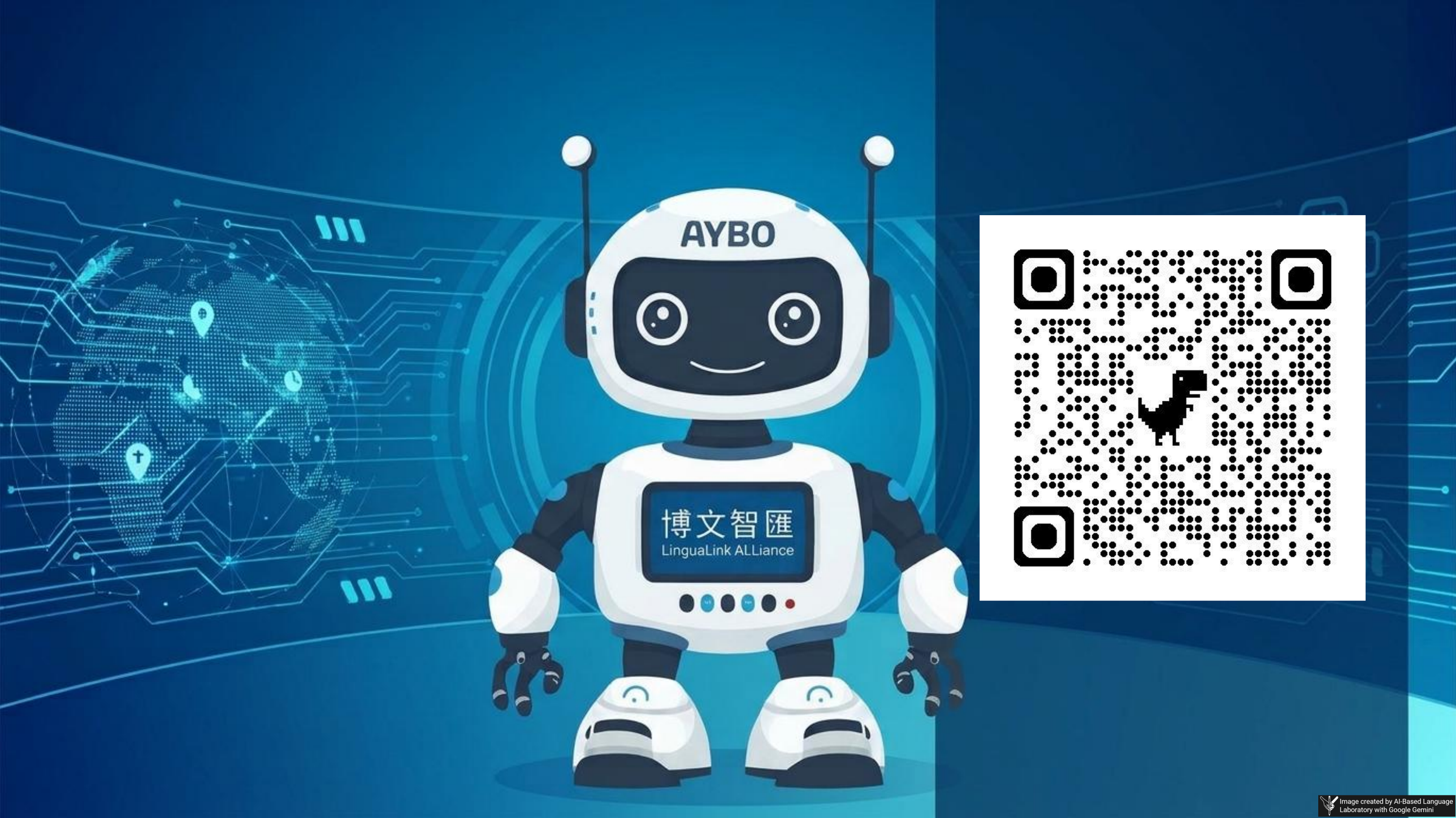

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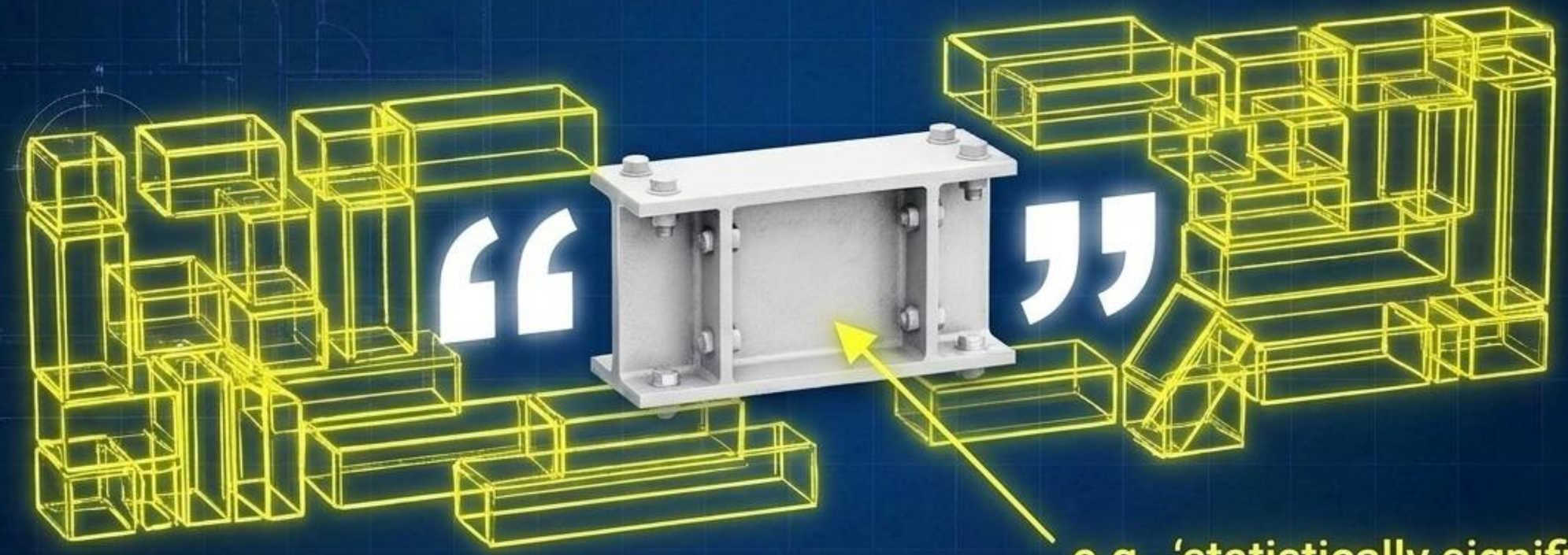
Discussion

After reviewing 23 studies, it is apparent that the AI tools examined were effective in improving surface-level writing issues, grammar, organization, and word choice (Dja'far & Hamidah, 2024; Luo et al., 2025; Mekheimer, 2025). If researchers adopt feedback and scaffolding theories as the frame of reference (Shute, 2008; Vygotsky, 1978), AI is not merely a high-tech spell checker for users. It provides constant support, offering low-pressure feedback as students try to master the rules of writing. However, the researchers also see an issue in the data. The researchers find a ceiling effect: without a live teacher in the mix, AI almost never prompts students to engage in deeper work, such as making arguments or thinking critically (Zhang et al., 2025). Cognitive Load Theory accounts for this. While a tool may save students time on basic tasks, it does not necessarily mean they will, by default, use that extra cognitive space for deeper learning; in that sense, a human guide is required.

The Exception: Load-Bearing Terminology

Do not force synonyms on established technical terms, legal language, or precise methodological terms of art. Altering them introduces inaccuracy. Paraphrase the surrounding sentence, but quote the unavoidable phrase.



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The Final Stamp

Attribution and adequate rewording are two completely separate requirements. Both must be satisfied. Only a radically restructured sentence plus proper citation equals a valid paraphrase.

New Structure + **No Citation** = **Plagiarism of Ideas**

Patchwriting + **Citation** = **Plagiarism of Text**

New Structure + **Citation Stamp** = ✓ **Valid Paraphrase**

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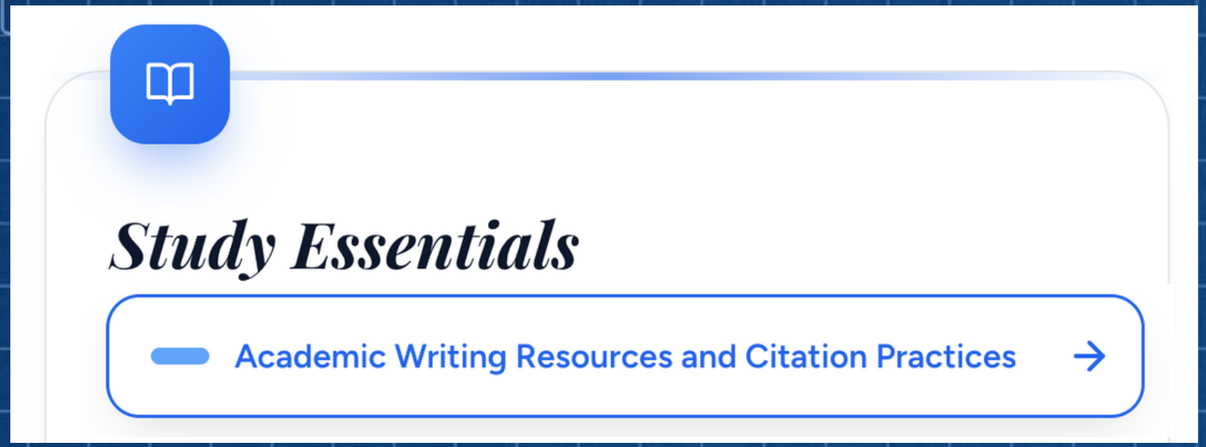
Library Guide Introduction

Study Essentials – Academic Writing Resources & Citation Practices





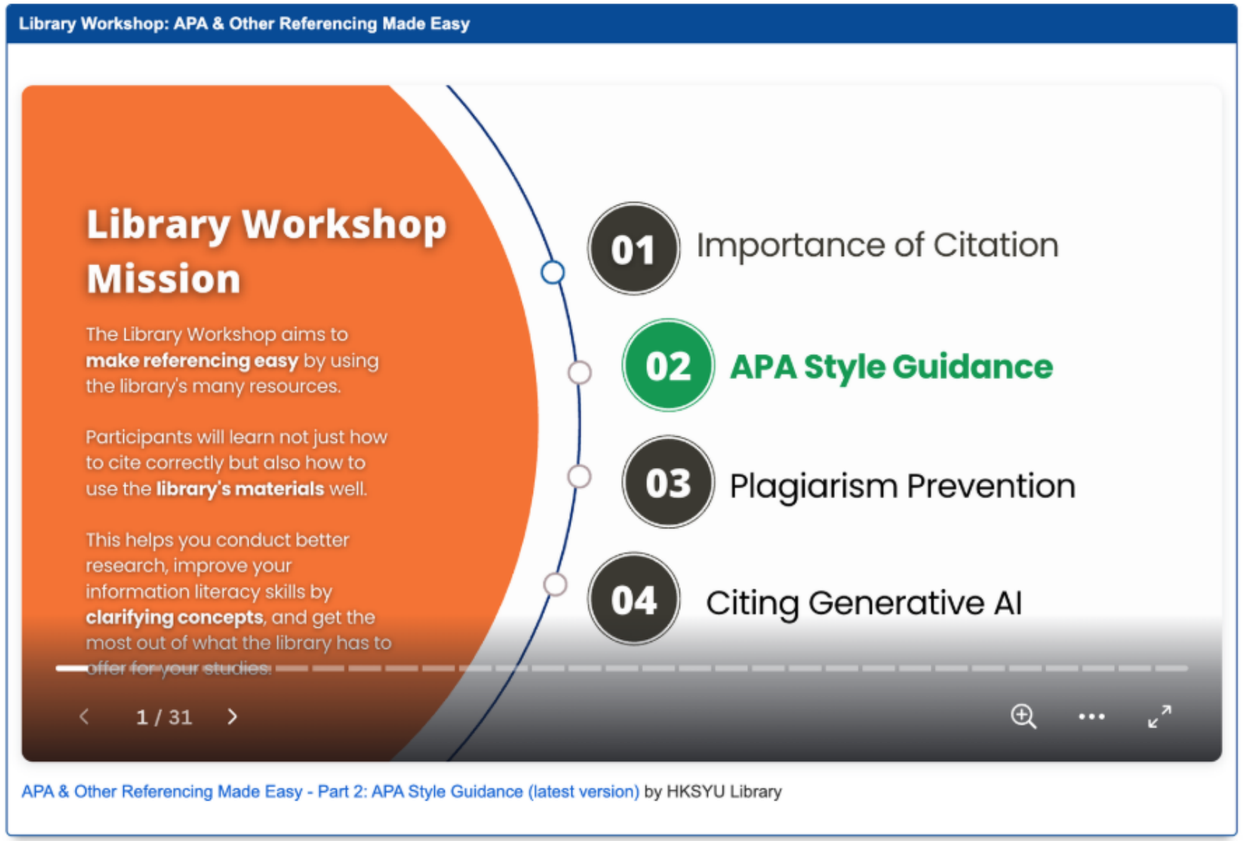
This guide (**Hong Kong Shue Yan University Library** > **LibGuides** > **Academic Writing Resources & Citation Practices** or **https://hksyu.libguides.com/academic_citation**) is designed to support you at every stage of the academic writing process, from understanding core principles to applying practical tools and citation techniques.

Library Guide Introduction

Study Essentials – Academic Writing Resources & Citation Practices

Citation Styles: APA Style 7th Edition

- Home
- Academic Writing Tools
- Citation Styles
  - APA Style 7th Edition
  - Chicago Style 17th edition
- Citation Management Tools
  - EndNote
  - Zotero



Library Guide Introduction

Study Essentials – Academic Writing Resources & Citation Practices

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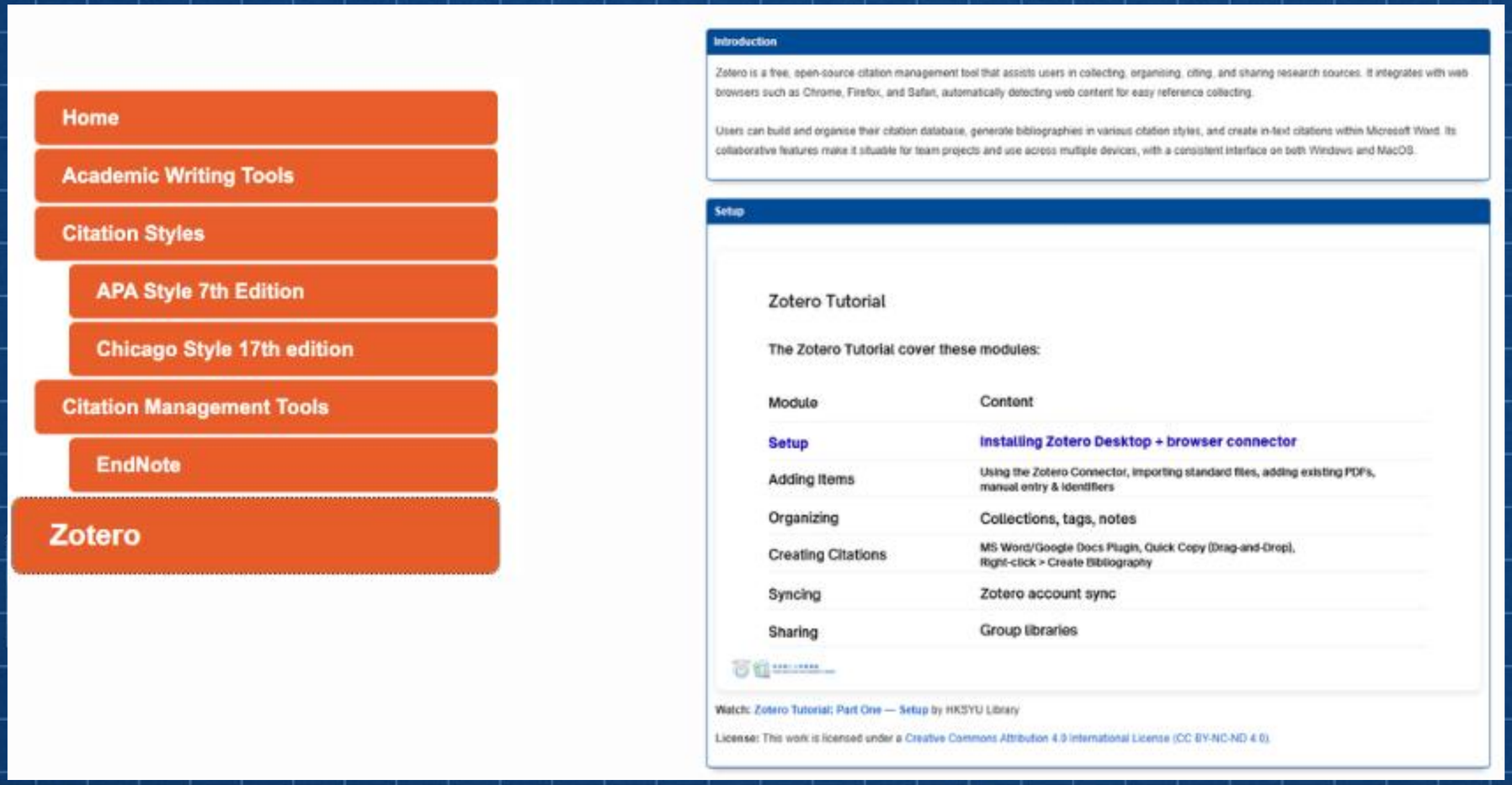

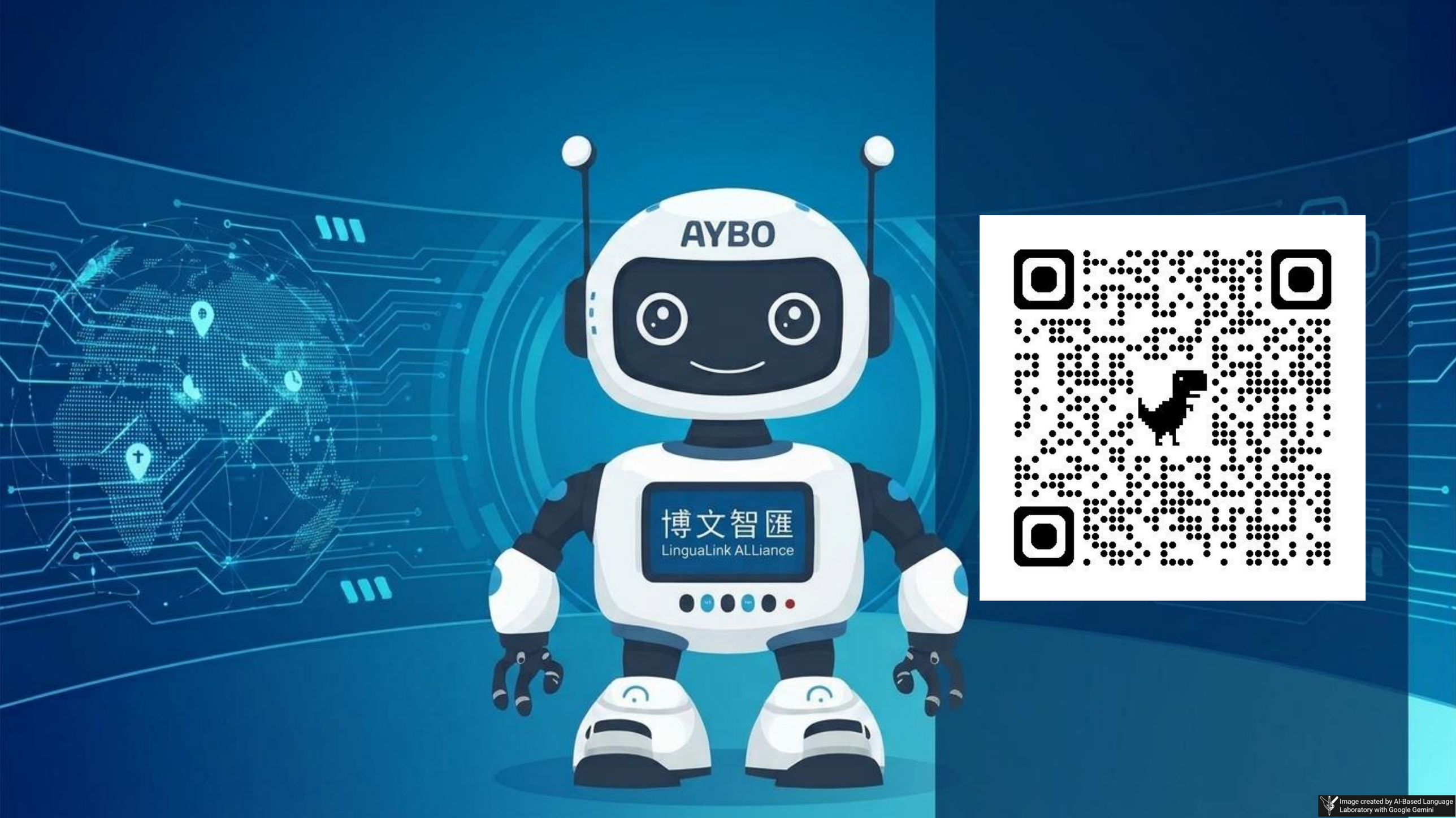

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PARAPHRASING WITH ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (APA 7th)



✗ PATCHWRITING

Changing just a few words while keeping the original structure.



✓ ETHICAL PARAPHRASING

Reconceptualizing the idea entirely in your own voice.

3 RULES OF INTEGRITY



1. UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT
Change the wording & structure, keep the original meaning.



2. CITE EVERY TIME
If the idea is not yours, always credit the source.



3. USE QUOTES SPARINGLY
Quote only when the exact phrasing is irreplaceable.

APA 7th CITATION PATTERNS

Narrative Citation
(Focus on author)

According to Smith (2023), early intervention impro...

Parenthetical Citation
(Focus on info)

...early intervention outcomes (Smith, 2023).

5-STEP WORKFLOW



Remember: Every in-text citation must have a matching entry in your Reference list!

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