

 **Student Reflections on AI Use in SPAN 3373:**
Survey taken BEFORE the students had done their research for this course
Summary of Survey Responses (n = 18)

 **Familiarity with AI Tools Before Course**

- 45% used AI tools regularly.
- 50% used them occasionally.
- 1 student had never used AI before the course.

 **Common AI Tools Used**

- ChatGPT, Grammarly
- Perplexity AI, Copilot, Bard
- Elicit, Research Rabbit, Connected Papers

 **How Students Use AI**

- Brainstorming, thesis development, outlining
- Grammar/style refinement, summarizing sources
- Less common: translation, fact-checking

 **Verification Practices**

- Most don't trust AI alone for research.
- Use academic articles, source websites, original texts

 **Attitudes Toward AI**

- Majority supportive or cautiously supportive
- Concerns: misrepresentation, fake citations, plagiarism, critical thinking

 **AI & Literary/Historical Study**

- Most believe AI can enhance learning when used responsibly

Faculty Takeaway

Students already use AI thoughtfully. Course-integrated guidance builds critical, ethical engagement with AI tools.

Student Reflections on AI Use in SPAN 3373: Convivencia, Spring 2025 — Denise DuPont and Constantin Icleanu

Survey from this week (April 14), after students had been using tools

Context

Students used AI tools (ChatGPT 4, Elicit, Undermind, Perplexity) and library databases to support two research papers. After the first and as they were beginning the second, they reflected on their use of these tools.

Key Takeaways

- Brainstorming & Thesis Support: ChatGPT and Undermind helped students narrow topics, clarify structure, and develop arguments.
 - “It was like having a conversation with an expert.” – Jackie
- Research: Elicit and Undermind helped students find sources quickly.
 - “Elicit almost made the library database too much work.” – Robbie
- Language & Editing: ChatGPT helped polish Spanish grammar and tone.
 - “ChatGPT elevated my language without changing content.” – Megan
- Confidence & Motivation: AI use reduced anxiety and improved workflow.
 - “Rather than being scared, I’m excited to dive in.” – SK
- Shifts for Final Paper: Students plan more strategic use—especially for revising, organizing, and clarifying arguments.

Questions for Faculty

- How do we teach thoughtful, ethical AI use?
- Should AI use be disclosed in assignments?
- Can AI help build L2 writing confidence?
- How might we model AI use ourselves?

Most-Used Tools

Tool	Use
ChatGPT 4	Grammar, clarity, idea dev.
Undermind	Thesis, sources, focus
Elicit	Sources, synthesis
Perplexity	Editing, expansion
Library DB	Credible sources