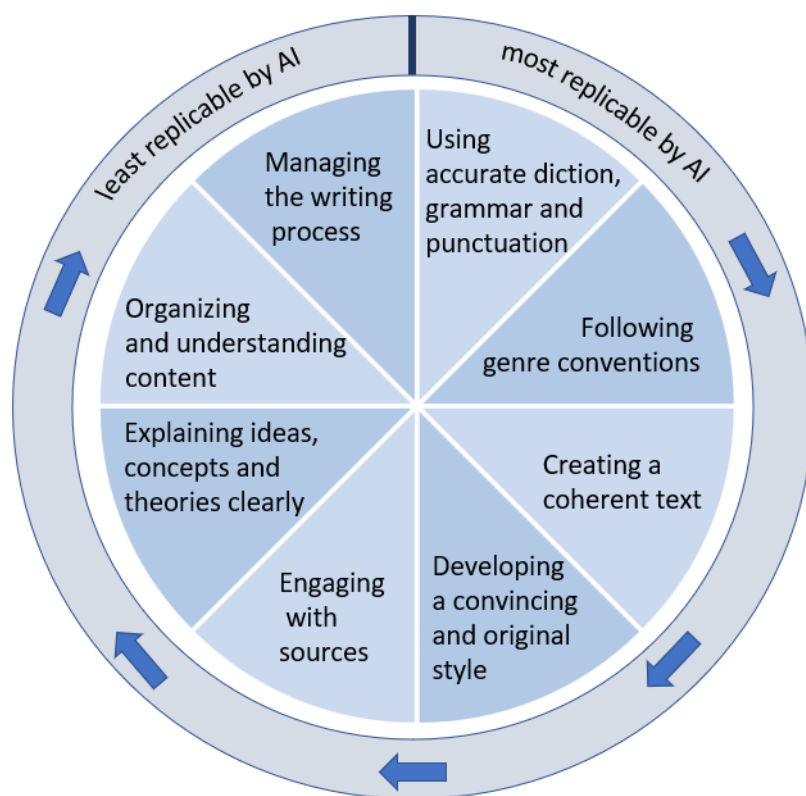


The 'Writing Pie' by the Academic Language Programme

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Writing is a complex task, involving a wide range of skills. To facilitate conversations about what writing really is, especially in the context of the questions raised by the wide availability of generative Artificial Intelligence tools, we developed our so-called 'Writing Pie'. It breaks down the different skills required by a writer to produce a text from start to finish.¹ Our aim in developing this pie is to help teachers from all disciplines reflect on what the value of writing is, and to help them rethink writing assignments and the training of writing skills in their courses and curricula.



The slices on the left side of the pie represent skills that have to do with process, content, and thinking. These skills are necessary for writing, but are not unique to the task of writing a text.

- Managing the writing process: planning, motivation, time management
- Organizing and understanding content: making sense of the topic
- Explaining ideas, concepts and theories clearly: putting thoughts into words
- Engaging with sources: finding and assessing sources, paraphrasing content

The slices on the right side of the pie represent skills that are related to communication, both written and spoken. The nearer to the top, the more the skills are related to the end product of the process of writing, a text.

- Developing a convincing and original style: creative use of language, personal voice
- Creating a coherent text: structure at the level of the text, section and paragraph
- Following genre conventions: an understanding of the type of communication
- Using accurate diction, grammar and punctuation: correctness in the written product

The circle on the outside of the pie represents our initial assessment of the extent to which (generative) AI tools are capable of reproducing these skills. In a way, then, this can be seen as the threat that AI tools present to assessing this particular skill through a traditional writing assignment.

¹ We use a simpler version, focusing only on text-related skills, as a self-assessment tool in our writing classes. The self-assessment pie was inspired by the Life Pie exercise from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*.