Prioritizing
HUMAN FEEDBACK
while integrating
AI Writing Support

THE WRITING CENTER
AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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AGENDA

Theoretical foundations:
- Language production is fluid and comprises both fixed and fluid cultural identities (Blommaert, 1999; Butler, 1993; Otsuji & Pennycook, 2009).
- Writing is multimodal/a multiliteracy space (Vygotsky, 1978).
- Writing assignment outcomes improve with scaffolding (Bruner, 1985).

Literature Review:
- AI has no ethical place as a substitute for student thinking and language creation, but it can provide useful and ethical support to critical thinkers in improving their writing (Behzad et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024; McKee & Porter, 2020).
- Such support is highly effective when in conversation with human (teacher/tutor) feedback (Dai et al., 2023; Escalante et al., 2023; Han & Li, 2024; Inayah & Apoko, 2024).

Terminology: Generative AI; GLM (generative language model); LLM (large language model); GPT (generative pretrained transformer); synch vs. asynch, EFL/ELL/ENL/L2

Outlawing AI

"With its potential to lead to significant social innovation, tethering on the verge of becoming a disruptive technology, it seems most unlikely that [GenAI] will fade away without being fully enfolded into almost all aspects of academic and pedagogical activity" (Yeralan & Lee, 2023, p. 107)

IT IS

INEVITABLE (Armony & Hazzan, 2024)

UBIQUITOUS (Eldin, 2024)

SUPPORTED (see references and more)

POLICIES ARE

AMBIVALENT (Xiao et al., 2023)

AI & THE
Writing Center

- "center of negotiation"
- safe space for students to ideate/make mistakes
- AI complements our traditional work
- standard-setter for academic ethics
- relentless development = expontial growth

Writing is more than writing! The Writing Center has always been a technocentric multiliteracy center.

QUALITIES OF AI WRITING FEEDBACK

Stilted

Flawed / incorrect

Untrustworthy

Focuses more on strengths

Encouraging

Readable

Helps with grammar/vocab

Helps with feedback literacy

More detail than expected

QUALITIES OF HUMAN WRITING FEEDBACK

Stops short

Hard to read
(handwritten)

Slow

Focuses more on
weaknesses

Trustworthy

Specific and detailed

Preserves student
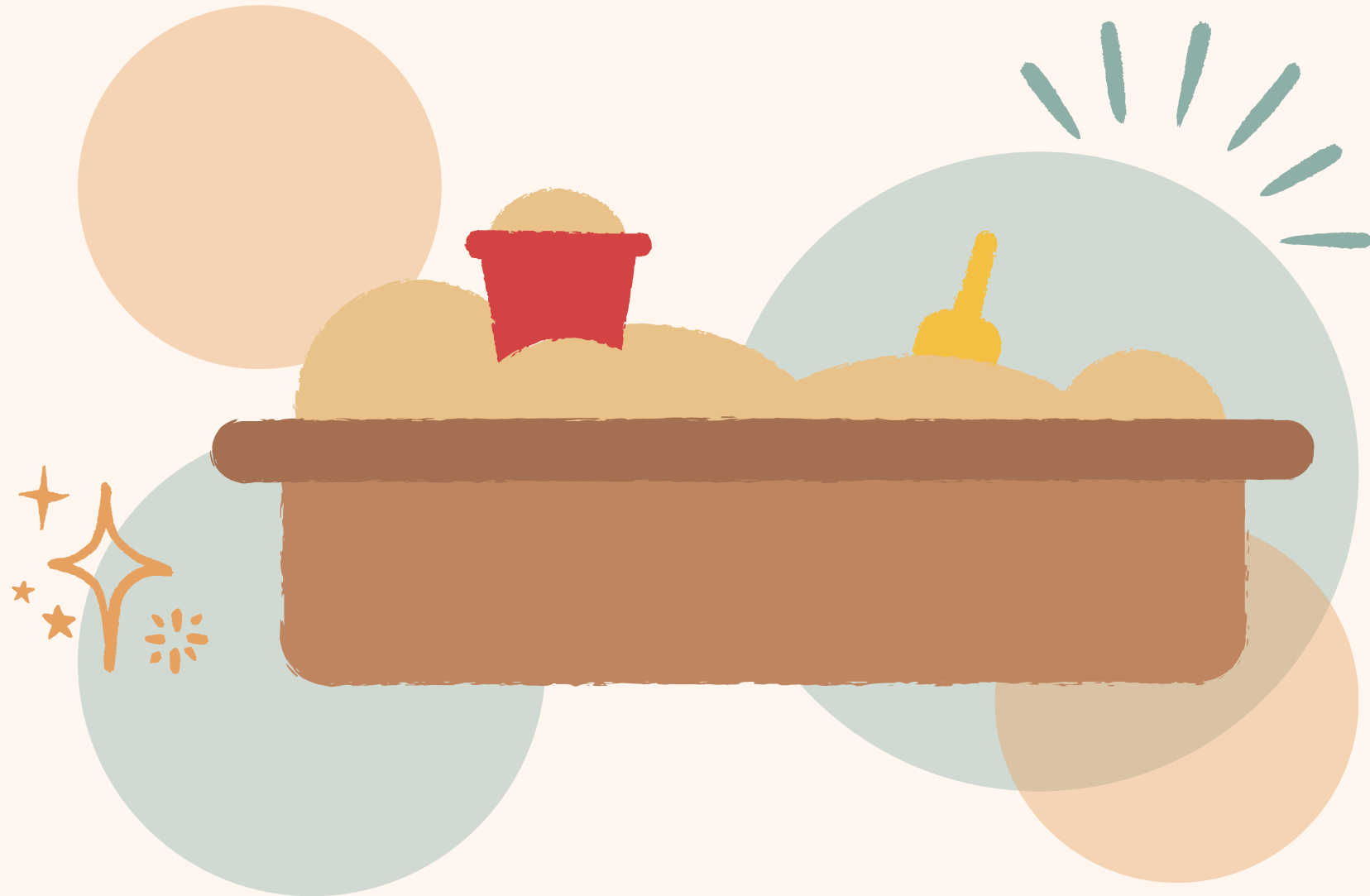agency

Safeguards
diversity of student
writing

Take-Aways

- AI writing tools are not evil thought-stealers, but we must retain command of our agency and ownership (and that of our students).
- AI is not concerned with ethics, so we must teach and remain cognizant of the rhetorical situation of our writing and communication.
- All kinds of writing feedback (even bad feedback!) are useful, but AI feedback is most effective in conversation with human feedback.
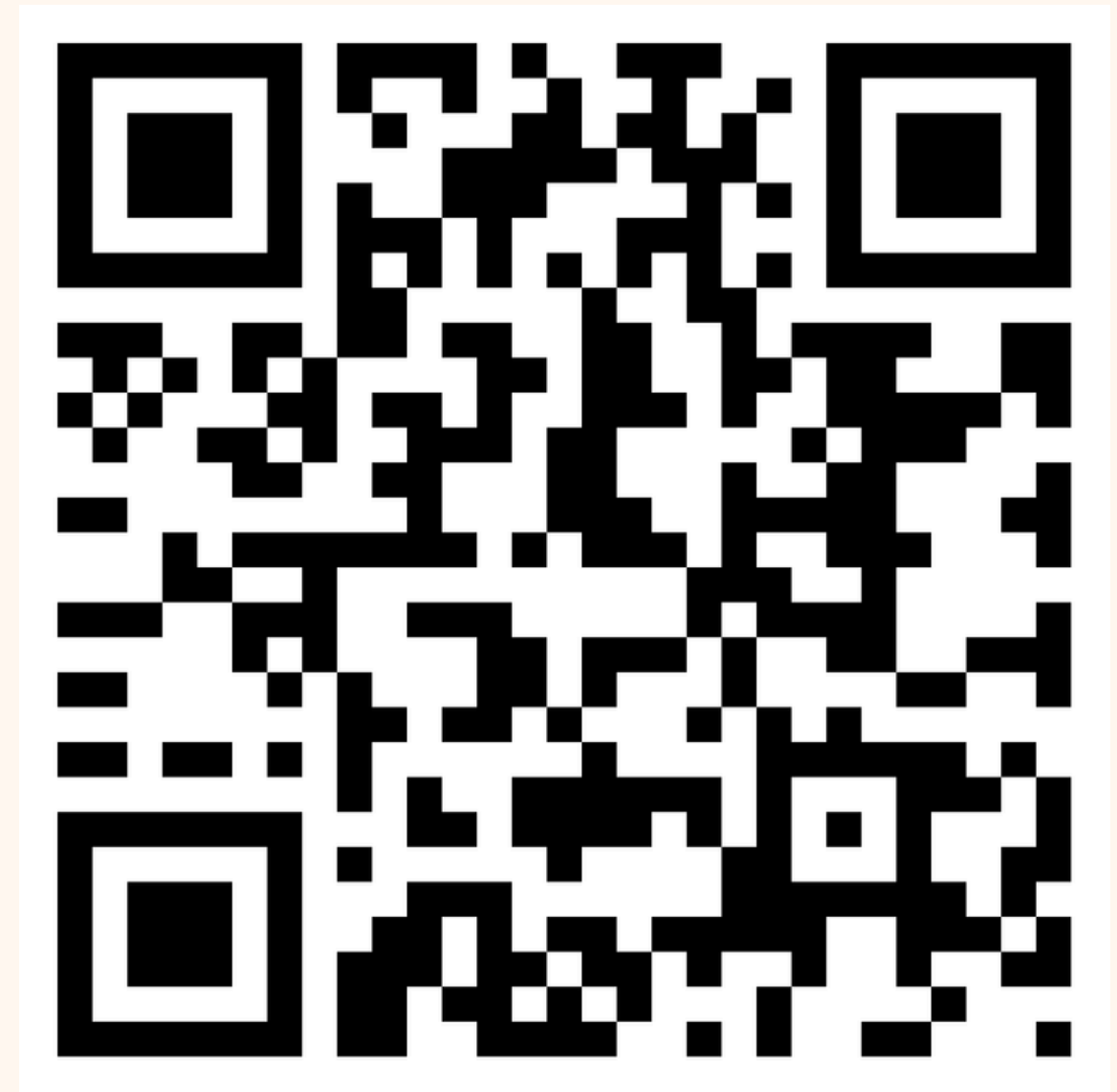
AI WRITING SUPPORT SANDBOX

(AND A LIST OF REFERENCES)

THANK YOU!

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