

Introducing Students to AI in Your Classroom

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The following series of activities is designed to start by putting a damper on any unfettered enthusiasm students may be feeling about AI, drawing attention to ChatGPT's weaknesses and its malicious shadow. The next activities invite students to critique AI, and then finally students are asked to self-persuade and peer-persuade around questions of ethical and unethical usage. I am advocating for a balance here: recognizing the need for students to understand AI and use it wisely but also to be well aware of its many downsides.

- Perhaps start with providing students with Autumm Caines' [Prior to \(or Instead of\) Using ChatGPT with Your Students](#) – the best arguments against ChatGPT that I have come across. Ask them which of her concerns resonate with them. Are the upsides worth the downsides? Students can annotate websites in [Perusall](#), and I can see where hers would generate some extremely interesting asynchronous discussion.
- If you'd like to lead students on one or more analyses of ChatGPT, [Eric Prochaska](#) has got you covered. Follow this link and let him help you lead the way.
- Facilitate a discussion on the ethical use of AI and try to only facilitate and not intervene. [Paul Fyfe](#) has excellent questions to guide you.
- Explicitly discuss the question, "How might AI rob you of what you came here for, what you are paying for, what you are hoping to become?"
- Create a syllabus statement together in one of two ways
 - Talk through a statement that would focus on using AI in ways that lead to learning and avoid AI usage that hinders learning OR
 - Ask students to each write personal AI statements. For your course, how and when will they use it (if at all)? The statements should follow the pattern, "Because AI... I will..." and then students sign them. But only do this if you are willing to allow them to use it extensively. If they can't be perfectly honest with you, it isn't worth it. But most students will hold themselves to a higher standard than you would imagine at that moment, and later when AI is tempting, they are far more likely to follow their own statement than one you force on them.