

Teaching Strategy Handout

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Developing Synthesis: In-class Tests to Foster Academic Integrity in the AI Era: A Case Study from a Year 1 EAP Module at a transnational university

1. Targeted Foundational Skill(s): Source Use – Synthesizing

3. Learning Outcome & Artifacts/Evidence:

- **Synthesis Skills:** Combining and contrasting ideas from reading and listening sources.
- **Academic Language Use:** Applying reporting verbs, academic linkers, and paraphrasing techniques.
- **Critical Thinking:** Identifying key points, comparing perspectives, and making judgments on what to include.

4. Teaching Strategy Overview (with sources, if applicable)

- 1. Integrated Summary Writing:** A closed-book test requiring students to synthesize ideas from a reading passage and a lecture, ensuring active engagement and independent critical analysis.
- 2. Source-based Group Discussion:** A structured, in-person speaking assessment emphasizing critical thinking, synthesis of ideas from multiple sources, and spontaneous idea development without AI reliance.

5. Teaching Strategy Implementation

Phase 1: Input & Preparation

Step 1: Introduce source synthesis with simplified examples

Step 2: Teach key language tools – reporting verbs, linking devices, and citation phrases

Step 3: Provide scaffolded models of written summaries and spoken synthesis

Phase 2: Strategy 1 – Tweaked TOEFL-Style Integrated Summary in Semester 1

Step 4: Students read a short academic text (400 words)

Step 5: Students listen to a 5 min mini-lecture with contrasting/supporting ideas

Step 6: Take structured notes using a template comparing reading vs. listening

Step 7: Write a 250-word summary integrating both sources

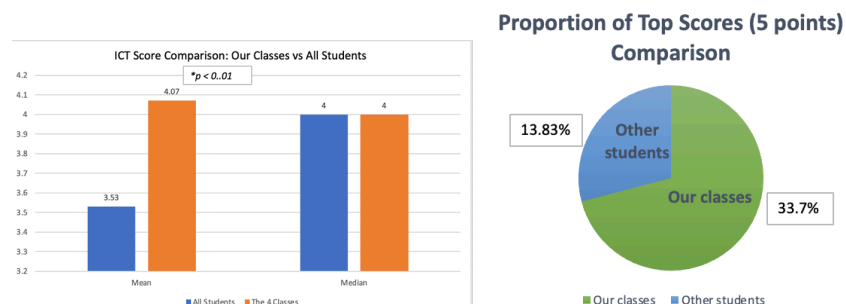
Step 8: Receive teacher feedback on synthesis, paraphrasing, and academic style

Step 9: Students use AI-generated sources to practice and compare their answers with AI-generated model summaries

Step 10: In-class test: independently complete an integrated summary

6. Evidence of Impact (Plan for assessment & evidence collection in advance)

(1) ICT Score Comparison between students in our classes and other students



(2) Qualitative insights – Students' feedback

Feedback on the effectiveness of AI-enhanced materials is positive.

S2: "The AI uses quite rich prompts (reporting verbs), and each sample has a clear structure. Before learning from them, I wasn't entirely sure how to organize the essay or what to include in each section. These AI samples follow a consistent logic and style, making it easier to find applicable writing methods."

7. Implementation Challenges & Refinements

(1) For the following prompt, the AI-generated text may not fully meet the requirements. Therefore, a thorough review by instructors is necessary.

(2) The complexity of the model samples also needs to be adjusted

8. Transferability Across Disciplines

1. Critical thinking & argumentation: Generate debate prompts for different perspectives; provide synthesised texts combining multiple sources

2. Subject-specific input texts: Generate case studies; produce scenario-based role plays

3. Skills Development:

Generate discussion starters on discipline-specific controversies; develop students' skills of using AI to support their content learning