# Creating an AI Engagement Scale

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### **Learning Objectives**:

- 1. Identify how students might engage with AI across a spectrum of use.
- Build a 1–5 Al Engagement Scale for one of your assignments.
- 3. Develop student-friendly prompts that show ethical, effective Al use.

### Roadmap

- 1. Contextualize the Assignment Clarify the task and what kind of thinking or learning it is meant to develop.
- 2. Build the Al Engagement Scale Define 5 levels of potential Al use, from minimal to extensive.
- Model Effective Prompting Create student-friendly prompts for each level, and reflect on how to guide productive classroom conversation.

## What you need for the workshop

- 1. Access to a Generative AI tool: Which AI to Use
- 2. An electronic copy of one of your assignments, projects, etc. (PDF, Word, etc.) to upload or copy-paste from.

# Al Output Evaluation Checklist

- Are all facts, data, and citations correct?
- Is it aligned with the learning objectives or task requirements?
- Is it free from bias, stereotypes, or inappropriate content?
- Does the reading level and tone fit my students?
- Does it reflect my teaching style and context?

"The ethical use of AI tools ... is not an "all or nothing" discussion with your students. Instead, it involves navigating a continuum that spans between unrestricted usage and outright bans. As an instructor, you may find yourself at various points along this continuum, depending on the course or even a specific assignment. Emphasizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to ethical Al usage in your classes is essential to foster a responsible AI culture among students." - Ryan Watkins, From AI to A+

### 1. Creating an Al Engagement Scale

Rather than policing how students use AI, what if we helped them reflect on how and why they're using it? An Al Engagement Scale invites students to consider a spectrum of use—from light support like clarifying definitions to more substantial involvement like generating drafts. In this activity, you'll apply that idea to a specific assignment, building a 1-to-5 scale that captures a range of engagement. Along the way, you'll consider how to coach students toward thoughtful, transparent, and educationally meaningful use.

#### PROMPT:

I assigned the below for my [name of] class, which gives them practice with the concept of [this thing]. As part of our classroom conversation, I want to discuss the appropriate role of generative AI in completing this task. Specifically, I'm interested in helping students understand the continuum of AI use—from basic background support to more advanced applications where AI may contribute significantly to the assignment.

To support this discussion, I'd like to create a 1-to-5 scale illustrating how students might use generative AI at different levels of involvement. The scale should range from simple uses (e.g., clarifying definitions or brainstorming ideas) to more complex and potentially problematic uses (e.g., answering a significant part of the work).

[upload exercise or paste exercise here]

Link to Psychology example

### Suggested Discussion Questions to Share with Your Students:

- What level of Al use *helps* you learn? What level might *hinder* it?
- Where do you currently land on this scale? Where do you want to be?
- What's the difference between learning with AI and learning from AI?

**Remember:** Once you've built one scale, you can adapt this approach for other assignments—lab reports, reflection essays, problem sets, even group projects. This flexibility makes the tool useful across your teaching.

### 2. Modeling Effective Prompting

It's important to talk with students about appropriate Al use—but just as important is showing them how to use it well. Too often, students simply paste in a question and accept whatever answer appears, bypassing the learning process entirely. By modeling thoughtful, targeted prompts, we can help them engage more critically and productively. In this step, you'll use AI to generate example prompts that students might use at each level of your engagement scale.

#### PROMPT:

I also want to coach my students in effective AI prompting. For each level you provided, can you give two prompts students might use for this exercise to achieve each level?

NOTICE: In our example, my Al already guessed I would want it to create the effective prompts for students.