

Generating AI Alternatives: Forum Theatre Provocation

Introducing the script scenes

The following are 3 scripts for 3 short scenes. These can be acted out with volunteers or alternatively, viewed as a [YouTube video](#).

It is recommended to read or watch through the scenes twice.

1st time: Watch actively, how do you feel about the characters' behaviours? Do you agree with their choices? What could empower them? Focus on the main protagonist.

2nd time: when you feel a discomfort and you know you would say or do something different as the main protagonist, this is your time to generate an intervention. Either:

- a) If in a setting where the scripts are being read and acted out, put your hand up and say 'stop'. You will then have the opportunity to step up on stage and run the scene again, this time with your alternative lines for the protagonist.
- b) If watching the video, using digital or physical materials (which can include the text of the script),

generate an alternative way the protagonist could behave or speak.



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Scene 1 "Alli: The early career academic"



Setting: University staff break room

Characters:

Alli: A lecturer, early career

Jo: successful mid-career academic

Alli is drinking from a mug, looks up to see Jo come in.

Jo

"Mind if I join you?"

Alli

"Hi, no, I'm just taking a break from marking"

Jo

[Gives Sympathetic look]

Alli

"I don't know how people manage to mark four essays in an hour"

Jo

"It'll get easier - skim read more"

Alli

"Skim read? I'm dyslexic"

"No one reads these essays from start to finish. Students don't read the feedback. Half of them are using ChatGPT, so it's not worth writing comments. Why don't you use an AI to write some generic feedback"

Alli

"I find I can think better when I write, I don't trust AI"

Jo

"That's not what you should be focusing on, think of your career! I wouldn't have secured that research grant if I had written it all myself"

Alli

"I don't like putting my work into these things"

Jo

"Oh they know everything about you already! You've got to
tool-up, embrace it - it's the future!!"



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Scene 2 “Mo: VLE development”



Setting: University IT department

Characters:

Mo: IT staff member

Chris: IT department manager

Pat: Marketing and communications manager

Mo is sitting at their computer. Chris enters.

Chris

“Hey, how is the helpdesk queue? You busy right now?”

Mo

“Nothing major, just a few calls coming in. Mostly about where menus have gone since the VLE update”

Chris

“Remember we decided not to turn on that AI tool in the new version? Well I’ve been told that there needs to be ‘a positive news story about the university embracing AI’ and they’ve decided it should be that one in the VLE.”

Mo

“Really??”

Chris

“Yeah, so can you just flick that switch?”

Mo

“We haven’t tested it”

Chris

“We can do a soft launch, keep an eye on what happens. It’s win-win, we get to have a play with it and they get to say how “future-forward” this place is”

Pat enters

“Hey, are you talking about the new AI tool? It’s great. I can get out some comms on Instagram about how we can offer personalised learning”

Mo

“I’ve heard that ‘personalised learning’ basically tells students they are going to fail. Isn’t that problematic?”



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Scene 2 “Mo: VLE development”

Pat

“That university where the students union kicked up a fuss is totally different, our students aren’t like that”

Chris

“if we don’t do this, we’ll have to pay for something far more expensive. I’d have to let people go if it came to that kind of money”



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Scene 3 “Jordan: Academic misconduct”



Setting: An office in a university

Characters:

Dr Jones: Senior academic

Jordan: A student

Dr Jones is sitting, Jordan comes in.

Dr Jones

“Come in, sit down”

Jordan sits.

Jordan

“Hi”

Dr Jones

“Yes, I’ve had a look at your report and frankly, I have concerns”

Jordan

“What about?”

Dr Jones

“I’m reliably informed by colleagues who know more about these than I do, that there are telltale signs that a student has used ChatGTP” *[note this is deliberate mistake, fumble saying the word a bit if you want]*

Jordan

(Correcting Dr Jones) “ChatGPT?”

Dr Jones

“So you know it”

Jordan

“Yes, but I didn’t use it to write my report”

Dr Jones

“You say you are going to *(reading from screen)* “delve into the debate”, apparently ‘delve’ is a sign you’ve used ChatGPT.

Jordan

“I didn’t use it”

Dr Jones



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Scene 3 “Jordan: Academic misconduct”

“And also, talking about ‘on one hand’ and then saying ‘on the other hand’. Dead give-away!”

Jordan

“I wrote my report myself”

Dr Jones

“I have no choice but to refer this to academic integrity, what have you to say for yourself”

Jordan

“I didn’t use ChatGPT to write my report”



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