

Details

How to Use AI to Help Design Student Projects - 276

In this episode, I share prompts for using AI chatbots as thought partners to boost student creativity tailored to your instructional needs and environment. You'll hear tips on crafting customized, open-ended prompts to elicit out-of-the-box ideas, along with examples you can adapt and refine to inspire exciting student learning experiences. If you're looking to maximize creativity and design student projects with the help of AI, this episode has you covered!

Link to live show notes: <https://classtechtips.com/2024/07/16/Design-Student-Projects-276/>

* *Design Student Projects*

Introduction

Hello there, and welcome to today's episode of the Easy EdTech podcast. My name is Monica Burns, and I am so glad you're here to join me today. If you want to make the most of education technology, AKA EdTech, you are in the right place. My goal has always been to help make EdTech easier and give you ideas to try yourself, share with a colleague, or bookmark for later in the school year.

Every Tuesday on the Easy EdTech podcast, you'll hear stories from my time in the classroom, my work with schools and districts, and my travels to different EdTech events. Get ready for solo episodes where I share some quick tips, stories, and interviews full of practical ideas and stories from new guests each month. If we mention something you'd like to check out, make sure to click the link. You'll find it in the episode description or the summary area where you're listening to this podcast, or you can find every episode and all of the resources we mention by going to classtechtips.com/podcast or by going to classtechtips.com and just clicking on the Easy EdTech Podcast button at the top of the page.

Intro Sponsor Message

This episode is sponsored by my new mini-course "Learn ChatGPT This Summer" which is now available to all members of my AI in Education Membership. Join today and stay for one month, the whole school year or however long you like. You'll get instant access to my mini-course "Learn ChatGPT This Summer" with 6 short videos. It's built into my AI in Education Membership so you'll get all the member perks too like a new video update each month and plenty more to explore. Go to my website classtechtips.com/ai to find the link to the membership. That's classtechtips.com/ai for all of the details!

Today's Intro

This week's episode is titled "How to Use AI to Help Design Student Projects - 276"

Do you use chatbots as a thought partner and collaborator? This year, I've spent time with educators all across the country to lead workshops on using Generative AI for instructional planning. If you want to use AI to support student creativity in your classroom, I have a handful of prompts that are ready for you to try.

Chatbots like Gemini (formerly Bard) and ChatGPT have exploded in popularity, offering ways for you to gather lots of ideas to bring back to your classroom. Educators in all roles can make the most of this technology by learning how to write effective prompts for these AI assistants. If you are totally new to the idea of writing prompts, check out my free guide with 60+ simple prompts to try linked in today's shownotes.

In today's episode, I'll share prompts to help support student creativity that you can tailor to your instructional environment.

Episode Transcript

Writing Prompts for AI Chatbots

The best AI prompts include enough information to give a chatbot context and specific details on what you would like to accomplish.

Here are a few tips:

1. **Specificity:** The more detail you provide, the more targeted and creative the AI's response. Be clear about the subject area, topic, student interests, and grade level. As you'll see in the prompts below, you can give information on your role and goals.
2. **Open-endedness:** Avoid questions with simple, straightforward answers like a Google search. Instead, frame prompts as "what if" scenarios or invitations to explore a range of options.
3. **Encourage Out-of-the-Box Ideas:** Use prompts that include an example of what you are looking for, but don't limit yourself to your initial idea. You can add words like "unexpected" when describing the types of responses you are hoping for.

Prompts to Help Support Student Creativity

To show this in action, let's take a look at a handful of prompts you can make your own. All you have to do is fill in your specific details to the examples I'm sharing. You can add an extra sentence or two with more information about your goals if you like.

Prompt: "I am a [grade] teacher looking to design a project for my students who are learning about [topic] and love [interest]. Give me a list of ideas for how to make this project more creative."

Example: "I am a sixth-grade teacher looking to design a project for my students who are learning about the rainforest and love podcasts. Give me a list of ideas for how to make this project more creative."

To refine these prompts even further, you might add a sentence that gives information on the standard you are teaching, a literacy skill students need extra practice with, or information on the tools or resources students have access to.

More Chatbot Prompts to Boost Student Creativity

Describe three real-world problems related to [topic]. Which problem would be most interesting for my [grade] students to solve? What support will they need in order to be successful with this project?

I am a [subject area] teacher about to design a project for my [grade] students who are learning about [topic]. Make me a list of ideas for how to turn this project into a choose-your-own-adventure style story or game.

My students love reading scripts, and I want them to write their own. Write a short, dramatic script set during [historical period] that includes a conflict related to [topic] that I can share with my [grade] students as an example for their own project.

We are learning about [topic] in the [subject area] class I am teaching to [grade]. Give me a list of ideas for how to connect [describe project] to a current event or issue in our community.

I want my [grade] students to take part in a project that involves collaboration with students from another class or school. Design a project that connects to [objective] where students can use [devices] to work asynchronously on a project.

When I've used [project] in the past, students have loved to explore [topic]. I want to try something different this year. Give me a list of ideas for how to give students different roles within this project (like journalist, researcher, graphic designer, etc.).

My [grade] students are learning about [topic] in [subject area], and our goal is to [objective]. Make a list of five project ideas that could culminate in a presentation to an authentic audience (experts, parents, younger students, etc.).

Adapting Chatbot Responses

If you have tried out different prompts in the past, you know that responses can vary. Don't expect a perfect response on your first try. View the responses you get as a starting point for further tweaking and refining as you customize new learning experiences for your students.

An AI chatbot can act as a thought partner to help you gather ideas that drive student creativity. Well-crafted prompts can lead to exciting new lesson ideas and projects that are sure to have a lasting impact.

Let me know what works best for you and what new ideas you gather! Send me a message on [Twitter/X](#) or [Instagram](#), or reply to one of my weekly newsletters – just sign up at [classtechtips.com](#) or find the link in the shownotes!

So let's make this EdTech easy with some key points from the episode...

AI chatbots inspire innovative lesson ideas as thought partners.

Customized open-ended prompts spark student creativity.

Contextual details tailor responses to grade level and interests.

Refining prompts customizes learning experiences for students.

Remember, you can find the shownotes and the full list of resources from this episode on [classtechtips.com/podcast](#) and finding today's episode #276!

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Outro

Thank you for listening to this new episode of the Easy EdTech Podcast! I love creating new episodes for you each week, but I could use a bit of help spreading the word about the podcast. Can you leave a rating or review on your favorite podcast app?

Spotify will let you tap on the stars, and Apple Podcasts will let you tap on the stars and leave a one or two sentence review.

Thank you so much for taking this extra step, it helps other educators find episodes like this one when they are searching for EdTech tips.

Episode Resources

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