



Teaching as We Learn: Using Generative AI as a Classroom Tool



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LITERACY IS KEY

- We shouldn't aim to police our students
- Instead, make sure they're literate in AI, how the tools work, the ethical implications, etc.
- MTU's AI Responsible Use Matrix



AI AS A TEACHING TOOL



- Activity brainstorming
- Structuring lesson plans
- Slideshow shells
- Disclosing AI use to students
 - And disclosing when I *won't* use AI (communication, assessment)
- Asking students to disclose their AI use

SMALL CLASS ACTIVITY



MEMO

To: Everyone

From: John

Date: Sept 12, 2024

Subject: Car Issue

Hey,

So, the new cars we've got are messed up. The metal is actually just cardboard painted to look like metal. Yeah, it's going to fall apart because cardboard isn't strong enough. We've already seen some cars falling apart.

We should probably stop sending these out or something. I don't really know how this happened. We might need to deal with some angry customers and maybe do a recall or whatever.

Just letting you know.

John

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT



Here's our scenario: You're an astronaut working for NASA. You work on the International Space Station, and some serious problems have occurred. 20 problems to be exact:

1. **Power Failure:** There is a loss of power due to malfunctioning solar panels that is affecting life support systems and some non-critical systems. Life support systems (read: oxygen) will be functional for 20 more days.
2. **Airlock Malfunction:** The airlock door is stuck, which means we can't do cool space walks.
3. **Temperature Control Failure:** There are problems with the thermal control system, causing mild temperature fluctuations inside the station. Dr. Wayne is sweaty but he'll be fine.
4. **Water Leak:** There is a leakage in the water recycling system, which will lead to the loss of some plant species we've been experimenting on in space. We'll lose about 16 months worth of work if these plants die.
5. **Baby on Board:** Dr. West is in labor. Like, right now. We need an obstetrician sent up here ASAP. Contractions are infrequent and mild right now so Dr. West estimates she'll give birth in about 24 hours.

FEEDBACK FROM TYCA-MIDWEST 2025

- Experiment with more tools
 - I've mostly been focused on ChatGPT
- Pivot when new tools crop up:
 - Google Docs' new "refine" feature
 - Google Slides' new "beautify this slide" and "shorten" features



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep reading the literature, participate in the discussion
- Practice with these tools to build your AI literacy
- Ask students to engage with AI tools in critical ways
- Focus on affecting local change: your classroom, your department, your school



WORKS CONSULTED



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