

Teaching Students to Think with AI

A Practical Teaching Philosophy for University Faculty

Core Philosophy

AI is not a substitute for learning. It is a tool that can challenge students to ask better questions, evaluate evidence, make informed decisions, and develop sound judgment.

The Five-Step AI Learning Cycle

1. **ASK** — Teach students to frame strong questions and prompts.
2. **ANALYZE** — Examine AI outputs for accuracy, assumptions, gaps, bias, and evidence.
3. **IMPROVE** — Revise, challenge, and strengthen the AI response rather than accepting it.
4. **APPLY** — Use the improved ideas in authentic disciplinary or real-world contexts.
5. **REFLECT** — Explain what was learned, what changed, and where human judgment mattered.

Rethinking Assessment

Shift the emphasis from “Can students produce the answer?” to “Can students evaluate, improve, defend, and apply an answer?” Consider assessing the quality of students’ reasoning, verification, revision decisions, and reflections—not simply the final product.

My Role as an AI-Ready Educator

- Designer of learning experiences that require judgment and authentic application.
- Mentor who helps students develop intellectual independence.
- Curator who models how to distinguish trustworthy evidence from plausible-sounding errors.
- Coach who teaches responsible, ethical, and transparent AI use.

A Simple Classroom Principle

Don’t teach students merely to use AI. Teach them to **THINK with AI**.

AI changes the tools of education, but it does not eliminate the need for curiosity, critical thinking, ethical judgment, creativity, or wisdom. The goal is not to create better AI operators—it is to develop better thinkers who know when to use AI, when to question it, when to verify it, and when human judgment must lead.