

Using AI as a Learning Tool: It Starts and Ends With You

Opening Message to Students:

"AI is a tool. It can help you think, practice, and organize — but it cannot replace your brain. It should start with what you know, and it should end with what you understand. If you don't understand it before you use AI, and you don't understand it after AI gives you something — then it's not helping you."

1. Brainstorming Ideas

Teacher Talking Points:

- "If you're stuck, AI can help generate ideas — but you choose which ideas make sense."
- "Ask AI for options, not answers."
- "Use it to expand your thinking, not replace your thinking."
- "If you can't explain the idea in your own words, you're not ready to use it."

Model for Students:

- Start with your own rough ideas.
- Ask AI for 3–5 additional possibilities.
- Compare and decide which ones match your assignment and your voice.

2. Clarifying Difficult Concepts

Teacher Talking Points:

- "AI can explain a concept in a different way if you're confused."
- "You can ask it to simplify, give examples, or explain at a certain grade level."
- "After reading the explanation, check: Can I explain this to someone else?"
- "If you still don't understand it, ask a teacher — not just the AI again."

Accountability Question:

"Can you teach this back to me without looking at the screen?"

3. Creating Study Guides

Teacher Talking Points:

- "AI can help organize information into study guides — but only after you've learned the material."
- "Never upload answers and just memorize what AI gives you."
- "Use AI to turn your notes into flashcards, summaries, or practice questions."
- "Double-check everything. AI can make mistakes."

Student Check:

- Highlight anything you don't fully understand.
 - Fix inaccuracies using your textbook or class notes.
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4. Practicing Skills

Teacher Talking Points:

- "AI can generate extra practice problems."
- "It can quiz you."
- "It can simulate conversations or scenarios."
- "But you must actually do the practice — don't just read the answers."

Expectation:

- Try first.
 - Check after.
 - Ask for hints instead of full solutions.
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5. Receiving Feedback on Drafts

Teacher Talking Points:

- "AI can give feedback — but it should not rewrite your whole paper."
- "Ask it: 'What could be clearer?' or 'Where can I add more detail?'"
- "Feedback helps you improve your thinking."
- "If the writing no longer sounds like you, that's a problem."

Student Responsibility:

- Compare your original draft and revisions.
 - Make sure the final version still reflects your voice.
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6. Translating Content

Teacher Talking Points:

- "AI can help translate words or ideas into another language."
- "It can help you understand directions."
- "But translation tools are not always perfect."
- "Always reread to make sure the meaning matches what you intended."

Important:

- You are responsible for understanding what you submit — even if it was translated.
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7. Organizing Thoughts

Teacher Talking Points:

- "If your ideas feel messy, AI can help create an outline."
- "You can paste your notes and ask for a clearer structure."
- "But the ideas must come from you."
- "Rearrange and adjust the outline so it makes sense to you."

Student Reflection:

- "Does this structure match what I'm trying to say?"
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The Non-Negotiables

You can present these as classroom norms:

- Start with your own thinking.
- Use AI to support — not replace — your effort.
- Fact-check important information.
- Revise in your own voice.
- Understand everything you submit.

Closing Message to Students

"AI is like a calculator for thinking — it helps, but you still have to know what you're doing. If you don't understand your work before and after using AI, you're not learning. It starts with you. It ends with you."