Kickstart the Year

Meaningful AI Conversations for Your ELA Classroom

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Today

- Welcome
- Teacher Panel: Learnings from the Field
- Check-in on thinking
- Backed by Literature
- Q & A
- Feedback and Ideas for next time

Quick Poll

What is the general feeling about AI in your district or school?

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Conversations about AI

Learnings From the Field

Learning Design Consultant | School Board Trustee

- Former HS ELA & Biology Teacher

- PhD in Educational Psychology & Ed Tech

- Red Cedar Writing Project Fellow (2005)

- **Fun fact:** Loves national parking & mushroom foraging 🍄

Andrea Zellner, PhD

Sharon Daly

AI Course Designer | Writing Project Fellow

- Fellow of the Greater Madison Writing Project

- Course Designer/Instructor, Center for Advanced Academics

- Conference Presenter on AI in Education

- Former Advanced Learning Coordinator, K12

- **Fun fact:** A poet who loves nurturing student poets 📝
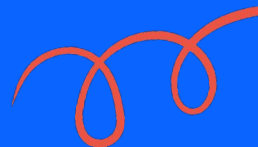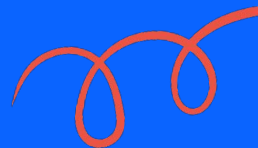
Check-in

📖 **From the Literature**

Your students need you to:

- **Be human-centered:** engage students in a conversation about AI

- **Be transparent:** practice and explore AI with them

- **Elevate student voice/agency:** give them choices in how to use AI and writing opportunities that honor their voice and stance

- **Teach responsible use:** frame the use of AI in the classroom by setting clear expectations

Strong starts for an AI conversation

- When is it okay to use AI for help, and when does it cross the line into cheating?

- Do you use AI to do your homework? Why or why not?

- In what ways can GenAI enhance and/or stifle creativity?

- Imagine your school uses an AI tool in every class. What are the pros and cons?

- How do you attribute AI for its contributions to your work when you make it public?

Potential Use of AI in the ELA Classroom

- Students ask AI to rephrase their writing for different audiences (e.g., formal vs. informal) or tones

- AI acts as a peer reviewer, giving constructive feedback on focus, organization, and clarity

- AI generates a decision tree to help students explore motivation and development.

- AI rewrites complex passages for MLL or striving readers while maintaining meaning

Illuminate the shortcomings of AI

- Misinformation and Hallucinations

- Built in Bias

- Over-reliance and reduced cognitive struggle

- Students (all of us) need to learn prompting language (it is a learned skill, not an innate capacity)

- Student data privacy issues

- Authenticity concerns

Set parameters for AI use

- What is the purpose for using AI? AND How does it align with our [district/school/organizational] values?

- Does the use of AI help students meet the learning objectives and grow as a writer?

- What guidance has been provided?
  a. State
  b. District
  c. School

- Who else might be part of your AI think-tank?

- How will you build in learning about AI with your peers and students?

A Future with Artificial Intelligence

There's been a lot of buzz recently about artificial intelligence. AI—the ability of computers to solve problems like humans—can write poetry, drive cars, and diagnose diseases. What will this technology mean for our future?

Respond to one of the following:

- What's one task you think would be hard for computers to do as well as humans? Explain.
- Should there be laws to control the use of AI? Why or why not?
- Imagine you're a kid in 2100. Describe how you use AI in your daily life.

Why Write?

Artificial intelligence tools can produce sentences that sound human, but they can't think the way humans do. For example, ChatGPT writes by predicting the most likely next word.

With tools like ChatGPT, do humans still need to write? Why or why not?

Assignment Results › **Jessica Giraffe**

Change student
Jessica Giraffe

Submission | Prompt

Copy essay | Print | Insights

Likes Boost Confidence

Getting likes on social media is a hot topic these days. In my opinion, social media sites should keep showing the number of likes a post gets. First, they boost the user's confidence. For example, when I see that a lot of people liked my pictures or video, I get a warm and fuzzy feeling inside. Likes also help show what's popular and encourage people to post more. Maybe a person sees that cute cat pictures are getting a lot of love, so they decide to share a pic of their own cat.

Comments
Good job stating a claim that answers the prompt. However, your claim should be the first sentence of your paragraph.

Evidence supports the claim (at least two pieces)

0 | 1 | 2

Comments
Nice work! You supported your claim with evidence.

Explanation connects the evidence to the claim

0 | 1 | 2

Comments
Great job! It's clear how your evidence supports your claim.

Post grade and comments
Send back for revisions ?

Return to student

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Feedback & Next Steps

Scan here to take
our quick survey!

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Q & A

Helpful Resources

Bowen, J. A., & Watson, C. E. (2024). *Teaching with ai: A practical guide to a new era of human learning.* Johns Hopkins University Press.

Dukes, J. (2025, August 11). The Duplicitous Nature of Humanity. *https://www.teachlabpodcast.com/.* August 15, 2025, https://www.teachlabpodcast.com/the-duplicitous-nature-of-humanity/

Kalantzis, M. and Cope, B. (2025), Literacy in the Time of Artificial Intelligence. Read Res Q, 60: e591. https://doi.org/10.1002/rrq.591

Mah, C., Walker, H., Phalen, L., Levine, S., Beck, S. W., & Pittman, J. (2024). Beyond CheatBots: Examining Tensions in Teachers' and Students' Perceptions of Cheating and Learning with ChatGPT. *Education Sciences*, *14*(5), 500. https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14050500

National Writing Project. *Resources and tools by educators for the teaching of writing*. Teach Write Now. https://teach.nwp.org/

Prothero, A. (2024, February 19). *What Is Age-Appropriate Use of AI? 4 Developmental Stages to Know About*. Education Week. https://www.edweek.org/technology/what-is-age-appropriate-use-of-ai-4-developmental-stages-to-know-about/2024/02

Example of State Guidelines
School Technology, Artificial Intelligence in Education (2024). Minnesota Department of Education. Retrieved August 14, 2025, from https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/tech/AI/AIEd/

Student Voice:
Han, O. (2025, June 18). We need to chat(gpt). *Https://Www.Nytimes.Com/* . Retrieved August 14, 2025, from https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/18/learning/we-need-to-chat-gpt.html?unlocked_article_code=1.YE8.9dGf.-y3Qhmpymvyw&smid=url-share