



NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SOCIETY

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO

<http://csus.edu/ai>

UNDERSTANDING AI-ASSISTED WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- **Shift in Pedagogy:** Incorporating AI into writing assignments is not just about using a new tool but represents a significant shift in instruction and assessment .
- **Focus on 'Rich Prompts':** These assignments require students to create detailed, specific prompts that generate high-quality AI responses, emphasizing creative and discerning thinking.

Designing the Assignment

1. **Select a Relevant Topic:** Students choose a topic related to their course for an in-depth examination.
2. **Develop Initial Prompts:** Guided by instructions on crafting rich prompts, students create initial queries for the AI model.
3. **Iterative Process:** Students refine their prompts in response to AI output, focusing on quality, relevance, and depth.
4. **Finalize and Edit:** Once satisfied, students edit the AI-generated text to ensure it reflects their understanding and originality. They submit all prompts and the final output.

Assessment Criteria

- **Creative, Critical, Original and Discerning thinking (CCOD):** Give much more weight to these skills over the mechanics of writing.
- **Prompt Quality:** Evaluate the complexity and effectiveness of the prompts used to generate AI responses.

Practical Tips for Educators

- **Demonstrate Prompt Development:** Educators should guide students through the process of creating, evaluating, and refining prompts.
- **Understand AI Limitations:** Educators and students should be aware of the limitations and capabilities of AI in the context of writing.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Emphasize the importance of authentic authorship and the ethical use of AI-generated content. Consider a specific discussion on why the “lazy prompts” are inappropriate.

Additional Considerations

- **AI as a Cognitive Tool:** Position AI not just as a tool for automation but as an interactive agent that can stimulate cognitive growth in learners.
- **Reevaluate Traditional Assignments:** Consider if traditional writing assignments are still effective in an age where AI can replicate average student output. It is time to raise expectations; students can do more with AI.

January 26, 2024. Please note: all NIAIS recommendations are living documents. We improve them as we receive feedback from users. Save the link, not the document.