

How Can I Use AI as a Student Writing and Editing Coach?

Presented by:

Jeremy Caplan

Director, City University of New York

Jeremy Caplan is director of teaching and learning at City University of New York's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. He teaches classes, workshops, and webinars on entrepreneurial and digital journalism.



© 2023 Magna Publications Inc.

All rights reserved. It is unlawful to duplicate, transfer, or transmit this program in any manner without written consent from Magna Publications. The information contained in this program is for professional development purposes but does not substitute for legal advice. Specific legal advice should be discussed with a professional attorney. To make this program available to all your faculty and staff, contact Magna's Customer Service department at 1-800-433-0499 Ext. 2 and ask about our Campus Access License.



How Can I Use AI as a Student Writing and Editing Coach?

1

Presenter

Jeremy Caplan

Director, Teaching and Learning,
City University of New York

Jeremy Caplan is director of teaching and learning at City University of New York's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. He teaches classes, workshops, and webinars on entrepreneurial and digital journalism.



2

2

AI Tools



- Chat-based AI such as ChatGPT and Google Bard provide answers to user prompts
- These tools provide generative text built on algorithms that have learned from analyzing the contents of the internet
- Popular word processing programs now include AI
- While writing assistant tools have existed for many years, these new AI tools add a further layer of intelligence



3

3

Capabilities of AI



- Translating text
- Summarizing complicated text
- Assisting in ideation
- Generating creative text such as revision or critique



4

4

Benefits of AI Writing Feedback



- **Instant:** Get input right away while ideas are fresh
- **Personal:** Feedback is generated for an individual writer
- **Specific:** Input can point to specific phrases & sentences
- **Constructive:** Feedback can suggest adjustments
- **Neutral:** Objective, impartial input
- **Robust:** Prompts can ensure appropriate level & context
- **Iterative:** Follow-up questions enable clarifications



5

5

AI Can Help Identify Blind Spots



- **Omissions:** “What would a critic say I’ve left out?”
- **Flaws:** “What are 3 potential flaws in my argument?”
- **Logical Fallacies:** “Where are my weakest assumptions?”
- **Holes:** “Which sections might benefit from additional examples, anecdotes, facts, or explanations?”



6

6

Encouraging Student - AI Collaboration



- Students learn to teach themselves, using an AI as a support tool
- While AI should not be considered a replacement for feedback, it should be considered a supplement
- Students will use AI regardless of instructor coaching, so it is important to help students understand the benefits and limitations of AI, and how to use it ethically
- Students are still responsible for their own words, regardless of AI input



7

7

Coach Your Students on Writing Prompts



BE SPECIFIC | When pasting in text for AI editing input, avoid generic, broad or vague questions like “Is this good?” or “What should I change?” Instead, prompt the AI for specific comments on which sections might benefit from further editing or additional data. Ask the AI to point out spelling and grammar errors. Or ask the AI to make note of weak adverbs, adjectives or verbs so you can consider whether they’re necessary.

ASK FOR EXPLANATIONS | If you ask the AI to identify blind spots or to point out potential flaws in your reasoning, make sure to also prompt the AI to explain its rationale or to clarify why it took note of a particular phrase or issue.

FOLLOW-UP | If you receive a response you don’t fully understand, ask a follow-up for further clarification. Or ask the AI to provide a deeper or clearer explanation of its point, or to cite the basis for its assessment.

ITERATE ON PROMPTS | If your initial prompt doesn’t yield the kind of response you expect, revise the prompt by clarifying the form, style, length or other characteristics of the response you’re aiming for.



8

8

Writing Exercises Using AI



- Ask AI for feedback using old writing prior to the class
- Compare their summary of a text to a summary written by AI
- Try to select the authentic text between an author and an AI program imitating the author
- Compare their edits of a text with the edits provided by an AI



9

9

Ensuring an Effective Feedback Loop



- Encourage students to critically evaluate AI input
- Enable peer review
- Incorporate personalized feedback
- Track student progress



10

10

Plagiarism



- Consider introducing new assessments where students present and explain their work
- Consider having students create recordings explaining their key points to ensure they understand the topic



11

11

Thank you!

Tell us what you think:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AI-writing-coach>

12