

Critical Thinking in AI-Augmented Learning

This presentation explores strategies for fostering critical thinking in students as they navigate the ever-evolving landscape of AI-powered learning environments. We'll examine practical approaches for educators to encourage deep reasoning, independent thinking, and ethical AI usage.

PS by Priti Solanki



Shifting from "What" to "Why" and "How"

Inquiry-Based Learning

Require students to **explain their thought process** instead of just presenting AI-generated responses.

AI as a Tool for Deeper Understanding

Encourage them to ask **follow-up questions** to AI, exploring **why** an answer is correct rather than just accepting it.

Example:

- Instead of asking *"What is the capital of France?"*
- Ask: *"How has Paris' role as a capital influenced European history?"*

Impact: *Moves learning from fact-recall to deeper understanding.*

Justifying AI Use: Building Reasoning Skills



Implement a policy requiring students to justify their reliance on AI.

Ask them: "Why did you use this AI-generated response? What reasoning supports or refutes this AI output? How does this align with course concepts?"

This process forces students to critically evaluate the AI's output and defend their choices.



Encourage "explain-your-answer" formats, where students must articulate the rationale behind accepting or rejecting AI-generated content.



For instance, if AI generates an argument for a debate, students must provide counterarguments and justify their stance.



AI as a Socratic Questioning Partner



Design AI-powered **Socratic Dialogues**, where AI asks open-ended questions prompting deeper reasoning.

Use prompts like:

- *“If this claim were false, what would be the counter-evidence?”*
- *“What are the assumptions behind this statement?”*
- *“How does this perspective change in a different cultural or historical context?”*

Impact: *Encourages self-reflection and logical analysis rather than passive acceptance.*

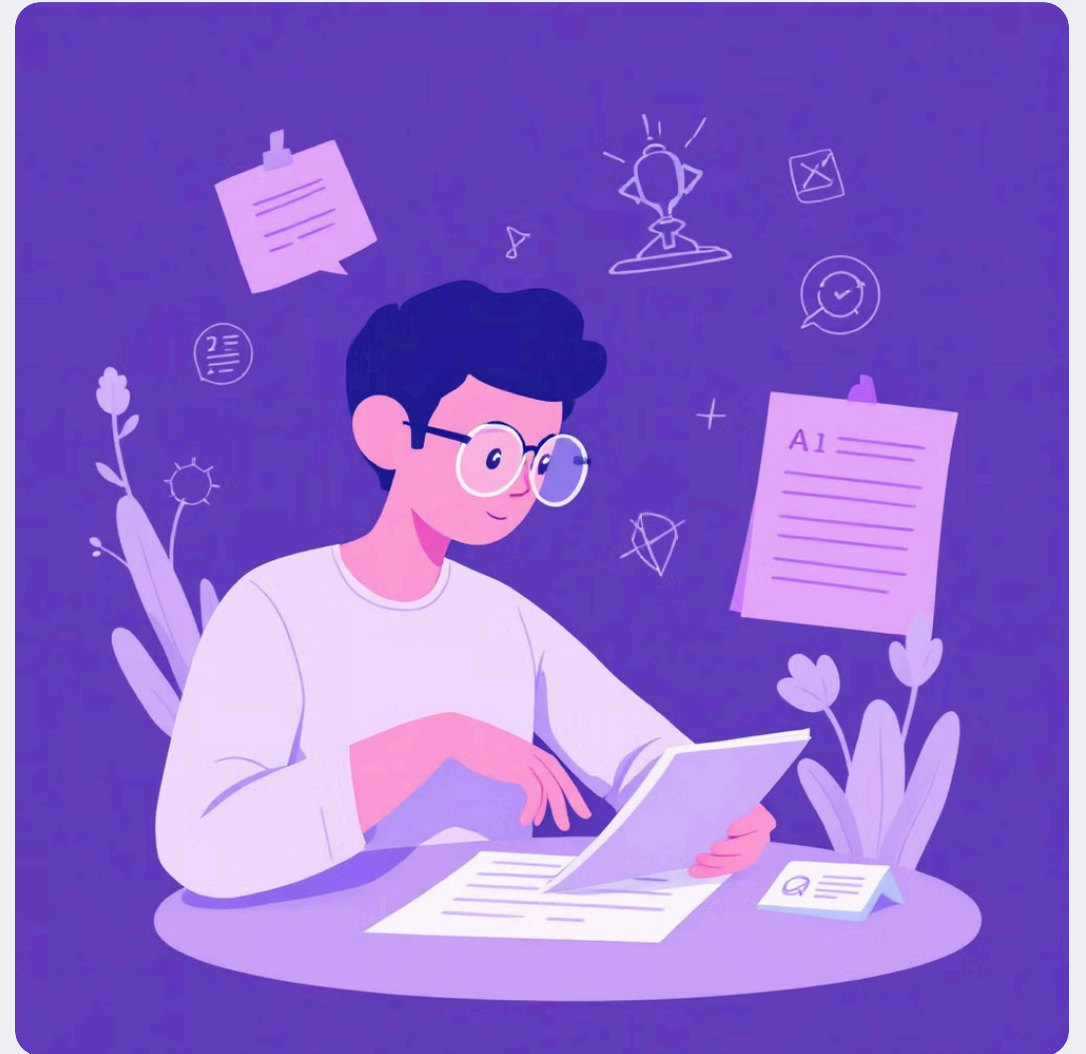


Example: In a **philosophy class**, an AI agent plays Socrates, questioning a student’s stance on **ethics in technology**.

Reverse AI: Uncovering Errors and Providing Corrections



Instead of relying on AI for answers, students **analyze AI's mistakes** and provide corrections.



- Example: Provide an AI-generated essay with **logical flaws or historical inaccuracies**, and ask students to:
- **Identify the errors**
- **Provide corrections**
- **Explain why the AI's logic was flawed**
- **Bonus:** AI hallucinations (incorrect facts) provide **great opportunities** to test students' analytical skills.

Impact: *Enhances discernment, ensuring students don't take AI output at face value.*

Project-Based & Real-World Problem Solving

- Move beyond AI-generated responses by assigning **projects that require independent research, real-world applications, and decision-making.**
- Example:
 - Instead of *“Write an AI-generated essay on climate change”*
 - Assign: *“Use AI to collect climate data, but you must design a solution and justify why it works.”*
 - Encourage students to **interview experts**, collect **real-world data**, and **defend their decisions.**

Impact: *Teaches problem-solving beyond AI’s capabilities.*

Comparing AI and Human Thinking

Create **comparison exercises** where students compare **AI-generated vs. human-created** responses.

- Ask:
 - *“How does the AI’s reasoning differ from human intuition?”*
 - *“Where is the AI’s logic strong, and where does it fall short?”*

Example: In a **literature class**, compare AI-generated poetry with **human-written poetry**, analyzing emotional depth and thematic complexity.

Impact: *Strengthens analytical thinking and AI literacy.*



Debate and Argumentation with AI Assistance

Assign students an **AI-generated argument**, but require them to:

- **Identify flaws**
- **Strengthen the argument with evidence**
- **Develop a counterargument**

Example:

- AI says: *“AI will replace human teachers in 10 years.”*
- Students:
 - Challenge the claim.
 - Provide supporting or opposing evidence.
 - Identify gaps in AI’s reasoning.

Impact: *Develops structured reasoning and argumentation skills.*

Grading Rubrics for AI-Integrated Critical Thinking

Depth of analysis: Did they go beyond surface-level AI responses?

Logical coherence: Are their arguments well-structured?

Independent reasoning: Did they bring in external sources or perspectives?

Reflection: Did they critique AI's role in their work?

Implement grading rubrics that reward critical thinking over simple AI reliance. By focusing on these key elements, educators can incentivize students to engage deeply with AI as a tool for learning, rather than a shortcut to easy answers.

