AI in the Classroom

Balancing AI-Assisted & AI-Resistant Assignments

Rethinking Assignments

Artificial Intelligence is now part of our students' everyday world. Effective teaching today does not mean banning AI, or relying on it blindly. It means helping students learn when AI can support their growth and when independent thinking matters most. We must rethink traditional ideas and design learning that emphasizes process, reasoning, and reflection.

The moment isn't about protecting learning from AI — it's about teaching students how to learn with integrity, even when AI is available.

AI-Resistant Assignments

Purpose: Protect authentic thinking, skill-building, and assessment integrity.

- In-class writing or problem-solving
- Live presentation, debates, or discussions
- Multimedia creation & performance tasks
- Reflection, creativity, and evaluation

Key Teacher Moves

- Design tasks that require creation, live participation, or personal connection
- Build in process checkpoints (drafts, outlines, conferences)
- Assess thinking, reasoning, and explanation - not just final products

AI-Assisted Assignments

Purpose: Support learning, creativity, and efficiency while teaching responsible AI use.

- Brainstorm and plan ideas, exploring perspectives, but complete the final work independently
- Draft and revise writing or presentations with AI feedback
- Clarify concepts, organize information, and support studying
- Use AI for accessibility (voice-to-text, text-to-voice, translation, text leveling)

Key Teacher Moves

- Have students show **how they used AI** and reflect on the process
- Teach students to **check AI outputs** for accuracy and bias
- Model **ethical and strategic AI** use

The Bottom Line

Begin With One Simple Step

- Try one AI-assisted lesson
- Try one AI-resistant assessment

Ask These Guiding Questions

- *What skill am I teaching—thinking or tool use?*
- *Would AI help learning here or replace learning?*
- *Do students need support or independence in this task?*

AI is not the goal. Learning is the goal.

The strongest classrooms will teach students when to collaborate with AI—and when to rely on their own minds.