

Teaching Students to Use AI Well: A Framework for Ethical Formation and Practical Application

1. Begin with the Human Person

- AI is a tool; the student is a moral agent.
- Emphasize dignity, responsibility, and intellectual honesty.

2. Provide Ethical Lenses

- Virtue: Who am I becoming?
- Duty: Is this honest and truly mine?
- Consequences: Who is affected?

3. Normalize Transparency

- Require AI-use statements
- Include reflection on what was accepted or rejected
- Compare drafts to show thinking development

4. Teach Practical Use

- Use AI for brainstorming and outlining
- Clarify difficult concepts
- Edit for clarity, not authorship

5. Expose Pitfalls

- Hallucinations and false information
- Bias in outputs
- Overreliance and diminished thinking
- False authority of fluent language

6. Design AI-Resilient Assignments

- Incorporate personal reflection

- Require oral defense of work
- Grade process, not just product

7. Form Habits, Not Just Rules

- Frame misuse as self-diminishment
- Emphasize growth through effort and discipline

8. Engage Deeper Questions

- What is truth in an age of generated content?
- What distinguishes information from wisdom?
- What does it mean to create?

9. Offer a Rule of Practice

- Submit only what is truly your own
- Verify what you did not originate
- Use AI to deepen, not replace thinking
- Remain accountable for your work

10. Teach Students to Struggle Well

- Intellectual growth requires effort
- Struggle develops judgment and voice
- Automation should not replace formation