Students as AI Learning Partners: Workshop Guide

Workshop Overview

Duration: 30-45 minutes
Audience: Adult educators working with students
Focus: How to help students effectively partner with AI for learning
Outcome: Clear understanding of roles and practical implementation strategies

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Opening: The New Learning Landscape (3 minutes)

Hook Question

"How many of you have had a student say, 'I asked ChatGPT and it said...' in the last month?"

Context Setting

The Reality: Students are already using AI. Our job isn't to stop them—it's to teach them to use it effectively for deep learning.

Neuroscience Connection: The human brain learns best when it feels:

- **Relevant** (Why does this matter to me?)

- **Competent** (Can I master this?)

- **Connected** (How does this relate to what I know?)

- **Autonomous** (Do I have control and choice?)

Key Insight: AI partnerships can enhance all of these when designed thoughtfully.

Section 1: Understanding the Student-AI Learning Partnership (8 minutes)

What Makes an Effective Learning Partnership? (3 minutes)

Traditional Learning Partnership Elements:

- Clear roles and responsibilities

- Shared goals

- Regular feedback

- Trust and communication

- Complementary strengths

Student-AI Partnership Parallels:

- Student brings context, goals, and judgment

- AI brings information processing and generation

- Both work toward learning objectives

- Continuous interaction and refinement

- Each contributes unique capabilities

The Neuroscience of Effective AI Partnerships (3 minutes)

Motivation (Why):

- AI helps students tackle problems they care about

- Immediate, personalized responses

- Safe space to make mistakes and iterate

Competence Building (How):

- AI provides scaffolding at the right level

- Students practice with immediate feedback

- Gradual release of AI support as skills develop

Connection (What):

- AI helps students connect new concepts to prior knowledge

- Personalized examples and analogies

- Multiple perspectives on the same concept

Real-World Example: Nursing Role-Play (2 minutes)

Scenario: Nursing student practicing patient communication

Student's Role:

- Sets learning objective (e.g., "Practice de-escalating an anxious patient")

- Provides context to AI (patient background, situation)

- Engages in role-play conversation

- Reflects on performance

AI's Role:

- Plays consistent patient character

- Responds realistically to student approaches

- Provides different scenarios for practice

- Offers immediate feedback when prompted

Instructor's Role:

- Designs the scenario parameters

- Sets evaluation criteria

- Reviews AI-student interactions

- Facilitates reflection and deeper learning

Section 2: The Instructor's Evolving Role (10 minutes)

From Information Deliverer to Learning Architect (4 minutes)

Traditional Role Emphasis:

- Content expert

- Information provider

- Assignment creator

- Performance evaluator

Enhanced Role with AI:

- **Learning Experience Designer:** Creates meaningful AI partnership opportunities

- **AI Literacy Coach:** Teaches effective AI interaction skills

- **Critical Thinking Facilitator:** Helps students evaluate and synthesize AI output

- **Sense-Making Guide:** Connects AI-assisted learning to real-world application

The Four Pillars of AI-Enhanced Instruction (4 minutes)

1. Framing (Setting the Stage)

- Define learning objectives clearly

- Establish AI partnership parameters

- Create context for meaningful interaction

- Set expectations for student responsibility

2. Facilitating (During the Process)

- Monitor student-AI interactions

- Provide just-in-time guidance

- Encourage experimentation and iteration

- Support problem-solving when students get stuck

3. Sense-Making (Processing the Experience)

- Guide reflection on AI interactions

- Help students identify patterns and insights

- Connect AI-assisted learning to broader concepts

- Facilitate peer sharing and discussion

4. Evaluating (Assessing Growth)

- Assess learning process, not just output

- Evaluate critical thinking about AI responses

- Measure improvement in AI partnership skills

- Document authentic learning achievements

AI Literacy: Core Skills Students Need (2 minutes)

Prompt Engineering:

- Crafting clear, specific questions

- Providing adequate context

- Iterating based on responses

Critical Evaluation:

- Fact-checking AI responses

- Recognizing AI limitations and biases

- Comparing multiple AI responses

Integration Skills:

- Synthesizing AI output with human knowledge

- Using AI as a thinking partner, not answer provider

- Maintaining human agency in decision-making

Section 3: Practical Implementation Strategies (6 minutes)

Design Framework for AI-Enhanced Assignments (3 minutes)

Step 1: Define Learning Objectives

- What specific skills or knowledge should students gain?

- How will AI partnership support these objectives?

Step 2: Structure the AI Interaction

- What role will AI play? (tutor, practice partner, research assistant, etc.)

- What guardrails or parameters are needed?

Step 3: Create Assessment Criteria

- How will you evaluate the learning process?

- What evidence of growth will you collect?

Step 4: Plan for Reflection

- How will students process their AI partnership experience?

- What insights do you want them to gain?

Examples Across Disciplines (3 minutes)

Business/Management:

- AI as difficult customer for sales practice

- Strategic planning scenario partner

- Financial analysis tutor

Healthcare:

- Patient simulation for bedside manner

- Medical case study discussion partner

- Procedure explanation practice

Education:

- Lesson plan feedback provider

- Difficult parent conference role-play

- Student behavior scenario advisor

Liberal Arts:

- Historical figure debate partner

- Literary analysis discussion guide

- Philosophy argument challenger

Section 4: Implementation Planning (3 minutes)

Getting Started: The 3-2-1 Approach

3 Questions to Ask:

1. What is one learning objective where my students could benefit from AI partnership?

2. What AI literacy skills do my students most need to develop?

3. What concerns do I have about AI in my classroom, and how can I address them?

2 Actions to Take:

1. Design one small AI partnership activity for your next unit

2. Create one rubric that evaluates both content learning and AI collaboration skills

1 Commitment: Choose one AI tool to experiment with yourself before asking students to use it

Setting Up for Success

Start Small:

- Begin with low-stakes practice activities

- Use AI for skill rehearsal rather than high-stakes assessment

- Build student confidence gradually

Be Transparent:

- Explain your pedagogical reasoning

- Share your own AI learning journey

- Acknowledge limitations and uncertainties

Stay Student-Centered:

- Focus on learning objectives, not the technology

- Adapt based on student needs and feedback

- Remember: AI serves learning, not the other way around

Closing: Your Role in the AI-Enhanced Classroom (Minutes)

Key Takeaways

Your Students' Success Depends On:

- Your ability to design meaningful AI partnerships

- Your skill in teaching AI literacy

- Your guidance in critical thinking and sense-making

- Your commitment to human-centered learning

Remember:

- AI amplifies good teaching; it doesn't replace it

- Students need you more than ever—as guide, mentor, and sense-maker

- The goal is not AI proficiency, but enhanced learning through AI partnership

Final Reflection

"How will you help your students become not just AI users, but thoughtful AI learning partners?"

Resources for Continued Learning

Recommended Reading

- "Teaching in the Age of AI" - educational research on AI integration

- "The AI Advantage in Education" - practical implementation strategies

Tools to Explore

- ChatGPT/Claude for text-based AI partnerships

- Character.AI for role-play scenarios

- Socratic by Google for STEM tutoring

Professional Development

- AI in Education workshops

- Prompt engineering for educators

- Digital literacy certification programs

This workshop prepares educators to guide students in effective AI partnerships while maintaining focus on deep, meaningful learning.