AI Symposium Participant Insights: What We're Thinking, Doing, and Hoping to Learn

What Excites Participants About AI

- Efficiency and Focus: Automating routine or time-consuming tasks so educators can focus on design quality, creativity, and connection.
- Creativity and Innovation: Using AI for brainstorming, personalization, and accessibility—expanding what's possible in online learning.
- Design Enhancement: Supporting alignment, rubric creation, and course mapping for stronger learning outcomes.
- Student Engagement: Encouraging critical thinking and creativity through AI-enabled activities and feedback tools.

Concerns and Challenges

- Ethics and Academic Integrity: Ensuring responsible use, preventing overreliance, and maintaining authentic student work.
- Accuracy and Oversight: Recognizing that all AI-generated content requires human review and contextual judgment.
- Environmental and Legal Issues: Considering the energy costs, copyright concerns, and lack of stable regulation.
- Human Balance: Using AI to enhance—not replace—human creativity and critical thinking.

Current AI Practices

- Aligning course and module objectives.
- Generating alt text and improving accessibility.
- Brainstorming assignments and refining prompts.
- Creating dashboards for course evaluation and Bloom's alignment.
- Designing chat simulations and AI feedback bots for students.

Ideas and Goals for the Symposium

- Explore AI applications for course design and assessment.
- Build or refine frameworks that integrate AI, ethics, and Quality Matters principles.
- Develop practical tools to support faculty guidance and student engagement.
- Learn effective prompting techniques for creative and efficient workflows.
- Connect with peers to share experiences and co-create new solutions.

What Participants Hope to Gain

- Practical strategies for responsible AI integration.
- Collaborative connections with peers exploring similar challenges.
- Inspiration for advancing ethical, human-centered uses of AI in online education.

Emerging Themes: Human-Centered Design · Ethical Literacy · Structured Integration · Collaboration & Community

Quality Matters AI Symposium 2025

■ AI Test Drive Exploration

Each tool below has a free tier or demo. Scan the QR codes or visit the links to explore. These tools represent key categories to apply AI for creativity and efficiency.

■ Generative AI

Tool	Description	QR
ChatGPT	General AI assistant for writing, brainstorming, and images (DALL·E 3).	
Claude	Analyzes long documents and produces clear, human-like writing.	
Microsoft Copilot	Integrates into Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.	
Google Gemini	AI integrated with Google Workspace (Docs, Slides, Sheets).	

■ AI-Powered Search & Research

Tool	Description	QR
Perplexity AI	Conversational search with cited results and suggested follow-ups.	
Elicit AI	Summarizes scholarly papers and research methods for educators.	

■ Knowledge Synthesis

Tool	Description	QR
NotebookLM (Google)	Upload documents or notes; AI summarizes and connects key ideas.	

■ Image Generation & Design

Tool	Description	QR
Adobe Firefly	Text-to-image generator with safe, education-friendly results.	
Canva Magic Studio	AI-assisted design for course materials and presentations.	
ChatGPT + DALL·E 3	Generate illustrations directly within ChatGPT.	

■ Video & Avatar Creation

Tool	Description	QR
HeyGen	Turn text into talking-avatar videos with a free sample.	
Runway ML	AI-powered video editor with demo projects.	

AI Warm-Up Activities

Instructions

- **Explore:** Choose one or more activities from the lists below and try using AI in a few different ways.
- **Reflect:** Think about your experience. What surprised you? What worked well (or didn't)? What did you learn about how AI generates results?
- **Connect:** Consider your interests. Which types of AI uses seem most valuable or relevant to your work?

Quick Prompts

Use the GenAI of your choice (ChatGPT, Gemini, CoPilot, Claude, etc.) to try out one or more of these prompts.

- Describe me based on my chat history. How do you think I spend my workweek, and what nickname would you give me?
- Can we play a game of tic tac toe?
- Tell me a joke related to _____.
- Explain _____ like I'm an 8-year-old.
- Paste a screenshot of a table with content into the GenAI of your choice and ask AI to create accessible HTML code of the table for you.
- Paste a math equation or scientific notation into the GenAI of your choice and ask it to generate MathML code for you.

AI as Your Guide

- I want to _____. What do you need from me?

CustomGPTs to try:

- The Diplomatic Designer
  Enter what you would like to say and the GPT will translate it to suggestions and more collaborative language.
- Image Description Specialist
  Upload or paste your image into the GPT and it will create alt text and long description.

AI Imagery Prompting Basics

How to Get the Images You Want from AI

How AI Creates Images

AI image generators like DALL·E, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion use machine learning to create original images from text descriptions. These models are trained on millions of images paired with captions, learning the relationships between words and visual features. When you enter a prompt, the AI uses this knowledge to build an image that represents your idea.

Most tools today use a method called diffusion. In diffusion models, the AI starts with random visual noise—like static on a TV screen—and then gradually removes the noise in many small steps to reveal an image that matches your prompt. The model evaluates each step, comparing it to its internal understanding of your text, until the final picture emerges.

Anatomy of a Good Prompt

A strong prompt clearly tells the AI what you want and how you want it to look. Use this simple structure:

Subject + Style + Setting + Lighting + Mood + Details

Example: A cozy reading nook with a cat on the windowsill, watercolor illustration, morning light, warm tones, detailed textures.

Prompt Components to Try

Element	Examples
Subject	portrait of a scientist, landscape of Mars, abstract shapes
Style	oil painting, 3D render, cartoon, vintage photo
Lighting	soft, cinematic, golden hour, dramatic shadows
Mood/Tone	whimsical, mysterious, joyful, eerie
Composition	close-up, aerial view, wide shot, centered subject
Color	pastel palette, monochrome, vibrant colors

Tips for Better Results

- Be specific, but not wordy. Too few words = vague results. Too many = confusion.
- Use art or photography language (macro shot, digital illustration, isometric).
- Experiment and iterate – small changes can yield new styles.
- Use negative prompts if available (no text, no blur, no distorted faces).

• Reference materials, not living artists (‘inspired by impressionist paintings’).

• Refine with edits or tools – upscalers, retouching, or composites.

Practice Prompts

• A futuristic city skyline at dusk, digital painting, glowing neon lights, cinematic lighting.

• A bowl of fruit painted in the style of a Renaissance still life, dramatic shadows, rich colors.

• A fantasy forest with glowing mushrooms, magical atmosphere, wide shot, misty background.

Quick Checklist Before You Generate

✓ Clear subject

✓ Defined style

✓ Lighting or mood described

✓ Optional: color, composition, or perspective

✓ Avoid unwanted elements (text, blur, distortion)

Final Thought

AI image generation is like creative photography — the better you describe what you want, the closer the AI can get to your vision. Prompting is a skill you can build. Practice makes beautiful.

Boosting High-Impact Design of Online Courses (HIDOC) with AI: Full 8-Step Guide

Each HIDOC step integrates a five-stage AI workflow to make your design process more efficient, evidence-based, and creative. Download HIDOC design documents (to help gather reference) and a course blueprint (to formulate a course design plan) from hidocmodel.com.

Step 1: Learner Analysis

Goal: Understand who your learners are—their traits, barriers, motivations, and prior knowledge.

1. Review the Step: Clarify what you need to know about your audience.

2. Gather Reference: Learner notes, demographics, prior feedback, and course context.

3. Use AI Prompts:

> Given these learner traits and barriers: [paste notes], list 5 missing considerations and draft 2 learner personas (goals, pain points, support needs).

4. Vet Results: Alignment with context, accuracy, inclusivity, and actionable insights.

5. Decide: Keep, refine, or re-prompt based on realism and design usefulness.

Step 2: Learning Outcomes

Goal: Write measurable, observable learning outcomes.

1. Review the Step: Clarify which skills or abilities learners must demonstrate.

2. Gather Reference: Program outcomes, Bloom's taxonomy, and existing assessments.

3. Use AI Prompts:

> Write or refine 3–5 measurable learning outcomes aligned with Bloom's taxonomy.

4. Vet Results: Verb precision, observability, Bloom's level, alignment to assessments.

5. Decide: Keep if measurable and aligned; refine verbs or scope; re-prompt if vague.

Step 3: Course Structure

Goal: Organize topics, modules, and assessments into a logical, balanced sequence.

1. Review the Step: Define the flow of learning from start to finish.

2. Gather Reference: Major topics, outcomes, course length, modality, time-on-task.

3. Use AI Prompts:

> Propose a logical module structure with titles, sequencing, pacing, and placement of key assessments.

4. Vet Results: Logical flow, workload balance, prerequisite ordering, clarity.

5. Decide: Keep if coherent; refine for pacing; re-prompt if generic or off-target.

Step 4: Assessments & Activities

Goal: Design formative and summative assessments aligned with outcomes.

1. Review the Step: Clarify what evidence will show learning.

2. Gather Reference: Outcomes, modules, existing assessments, time-on-task.

3. Use AI Prompts:

> Given existing outcomes, suggest a mix of formative and summative assessments.

4. Vet Results: Alignment, variety, workload feasibility, authenticity, engagement.

5. Decide: Keep, refine, or re-prompt based on outcome alignment and realism.

Step 5: Instructional Materials

Goal: Create or curate course content that supports learning and assessments.

1. Review the Step: Identify what content learners need to succeed.

2. Gather Reference: Lectures, transcripts, readings, media, and permissions.

3. Use AI Prompts:

Generate new content:

Given the desired outcomes and assessments, suggest content to help learners succeed.

Repurpose existing content:

Convert this video transcript into a concise article (~600 words) with summary bullets and a 3-question self-check.

4. Vet Results: Accuracy, tone, citation integrity, copyright, and accessibility.

5. Decide: Keep, refine, or re-prompt for clarity, depth, or compliance.

Step 6: Instructional Tools

Goal: Select technologies that enhance learning while ensuring accessibility and policy compliance.

1. Review the Step: Identify tools that align with learning tasks and outcomes.

2. Gather Reference: Required tasks, LMS features, support resources, and privacy rules.

3. Use AI Prompts:

Recommend 3 tool options for [learning task] with setup steps, practice activity, accommodations, and FERPA/GDPR notes.

4. Vet Results: Policy fit, support load, learning curve, accessibility.

5. Decide: Keep if compliant and effective; refine for simplicity; re-prompt for better fit.

Step 7: Online Learning Support

Goal: Structure support and guidance to help students navigate the course confidently.

1. Review the Step: Clarify how learners will receive guidance and scaffolding.

2. Gather Reference: Common questions, tricky assignments, success checklists.

3. Use AI Prompts:

Draft a Week 1 "Start Here" checklist and an assignment walkthrough for [task]. Include time estimates and examples of success.

4. Vet Results: Clarity, tone, inclusivity, workload transparency, alignment.

5. Decide: Keep if student-ready; refine to improve tone or examples; re-prompt for clarity.

Step 8: Continuous Improvement

Goal: Use data and feedback to identify opportunities for course enhancement.

1. Review the Step: Define how you will collect and use evidence for revision.

2. Gather Reference: Surveys, analytics, grade patterns, help-desk tickets.

3. Use AI Prompts:

> Synthesize survey comments into 4 themes with evidence quotes. Suggest 5 specific improvements prioritized by impact and effort.

4. Vet Results: Faithful summaries, practical priorities, measurable steps, no hallucination.

5. Decide: Keep accurate, feasible improvements; refine priorities; re-prompt if misinterpreted.

Summary Workflow (All Steps)

Stage	Focus	Key Questions
Review	Clarify purpose	What is the goal of this step?
Gather	Collect context	What materials and data do I have?
Prompt	Generate results	Does the prompt align with the intent?
Vet	Evaluate output	Are the results accurate and aligned?
Decide	Act	Will I use, refine, or re-prompt?

HIDOC + AI Pattern: Review → Gather → Prompt → Vet → Decide
(Repeat for each step to create a complete, AI-enhanced design process.)

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- Use the QR Code to join the shared Google Slides.
- Claim a slide, then share your findings and a link to your work if appropriate.
- You can also present your work at the close of the symposium if you like.