



# NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SOCIETY

<http://csus.edu/ai>



## Teaching Students to Use AI as a Personal Tutor

---

As an instructor, you are best positioned to guide students' use AI as a tutor. It is available 24/7, it never gets irritated at answering the same questions; it is confidential, mostly reliable, and is very supportive. ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini have thorough knowledge of most common courses; they may be less useful in very specialized and/or advanced courses.

### Key Points to Cover with Students

#### 1. Understanding AI's Role

- Explain that AI is a tool to supplement learning, not replace human instruction or critical thinking
- Emphasize that AI should be used alongside traditional study methods and human interaction.
- A human tutor is usually better than AI, but AI is much better than nothing.

#### 2. Effective Use Strategies to communicate to students:

- Formulate clear, specific questions. Ask for numerous examples.
- Generate practice questions and materials on demand
- Request step-by-step explanations, numerous examples

#### 3. Cover AI Limitations in tutoring: AI

- Does not know recent events or current affairs
- May hallucinate on highly specialized or niche topics
- Will not be useful on personal positions and opinions

#### 4. Verifying Information

- Trust explanations of theories or concepts, be suspicious about facts
- Teach students how to cross-reference with reliable sources

- Beware of possible bias
- Encourage critical thinking about AI responses

### Classroom Implementation Strategies

#### 1. AI Tutor Demonstration Sessions

- Show live examples of AI tutoring, highlighting strengths and weaknesses

#### 2. Guided Practice

- Provide supervised sessions where students interact with AI tutors

#### 3. Critical Analysis Assignments

- Have students evaluate AI-generated responses for accuracy and relevance

#### 4. Comparative Learning

- Assign tasks comparing AI-assisted learning with traditional methods

#### 5. Reflection Exercises

- Encourage students to reflect on their AI learning experiences