



Online Discussion Prompts in the Age of AI

Use this guide to design effective discussion prompts that match your AI policy. Your prompts will require more instructional text, but these should help generate ideas. You may also want to use AI to fine-tune or test your prompts.

AI-Resistant Prompt Features

Try these when you want to discourage or limit AI-generated responses:

1. **Personal Experience:** Ask for lived experiences, observations, or reflections.
 - a. Example: Describe a time you applied this concept in your workplace.
2. **Local or Class-Specific:** Tie prompts to local events, places, or issues or in-class activities.
 - a. Example: Connect a concept from this week to last week's guest lecture video.
3. **Media:** Require inclusion of an image/selfie, slides, video, model, drawing, graph, chart, etc.
 - a. Example: Find a poster or sign in your community that illustrates this concept and snap a selfie with it. Discuss how the sign connects to the concept.
4. **Citations:** Ask for textbook or other citations or media timestamps—best if not freely online.
 - a. Identify a concept from this week's lecture video that most surprised you and explain why. Include the video timestamp in your discussion.
5. **Connections:** Require connections between concepts, sources, or perspectives.
 - a. Example: Combine a theory from Chapter 2 with an example from your internship.
6. **Evolving:** Ask for building on earlier discussions, peers' work, or your feedback.
 - a. Example: Choose a peer's post from last week that you didn't respond to. Summarize their argument and identify its limitations, referring to this week's content.

AI-Friendly Prompt Features

Try these when you want to intentionally allow and guide AI use:

1. **Explicit AI Use:** State that AI tools are allowed and specify how to use them.
 - a. Example: Use ChatGPT to generate three counterarguments to your position.
2. **Brainstorm Remix:** Encourage AI for brainstorming. Then require a unique final product.
 - a. Example: After using AI to brainstorm, adapt its ideas to fit a specific local context.
3. **Critical Analysis:** Have students evaluate, critique, or improve AI-generated responses.
 - a. Example: Post AI's response and identify where it's incomplete or inaccurate.
4. **Process Reflection:** Ask students to explain what they used AI for and why.
 - a. Example: Describe how AI influenced your thinking and what you changed.
5. **Transparent Citation:** Require students to note which parts of their work were AI-assisted and how they prompted it.
 - a. Cite each time you use AI and link to the conversation.
6. **Tutor:** Tell students to ask questions, define terms, give examples, clarify points, etc.
 - a. Example: Help create our course glossary by defining a vocabulary term from the chapter and giving 3 examples of it. If you're stuck, ask AI for help.

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