PeerSphere
Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities

Session 1 Summaries

AI in the Classroom

Date: October 24, 2024
Hosts: Andrew Mowat

AI's Rapid and Enduring Growth

AI is not only here to stay, it is developing at a rate never seen before.

A general principle:

If you cannot differentiate from AI, you will be replaced by AI. (Technology has been doing this forever.)

Teachers' Role: Fostering Human Skills Beyond AI

The highest value work a teacher can do (that differentiates from AI) is the fostering of higher order human skills and traits, such as curiosity, open mindedness, critical thinking, creativity, empathy, etc. These cannot be 'transferred' by teaching about them, but by the way we show up with our own humanity.

Timetable Limits Schools as Learning Organisations

The constraints of timetable and curriculum (combined with an exam factory model of education) prevent schools from being learning organisations (they are teaching organisations). These constraints also suppress the opportunity for teachers to differentiate from AI by limiting opportunities to develop higher order human skills and traits in students.
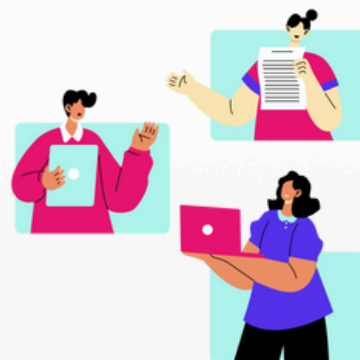
Additional Resources

* Session 1 Slide Deck
* Session 1 Recording
* Reid Hoffman meets his AI twin

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Session 2 Summaries

AI in the Classroom

Date: November 14, 2024
Hosts: Andrew Mowat, LeeAnne Lavender

Fostering AI Adoption: Modelling Curiosity and Openness

We ideated ways to positively influence school culture about implementing AI and supporting all teachers curious about getting started. One thing that surfaced was modelling curiosity, open-mindedness, and humility in exploring AI and sharing our learning journeys with colleagues.

Improving AI Prompts: Fine-Tuning and Clarifying Questions

We explored numerous ideas for improving our approaches with AI prompts. Andrew modelled how to fine-tune prompts with information about role, context, and tasks. He also suggested a technique of asking the AI to create three clarifying questions for the user before answering the prompt; this provides much more specificity and personalization in the AI output.

AI Purpose Bingo: Elevating AI to a Productive Assistant

We explored an "AI Purpose Bingo" card with ten top ways to use AI. In a large group discussion, participants responded to the ten ideas, and discussed how using AI for "feedback and optimization" is a higher-level impactful task that elevates AI into a productive personal assistant.

Next Steps: Learn, Apply, Implement AI

A take-away near the end of the session, in terms of next steps in implementing AI into the classroom, was to follow 3 steps: learn prompting, apply to your tasks ,and implement into learning tasks.
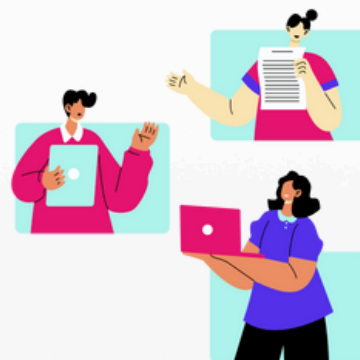
Additional Resources

* Session 2 Slide Deck
* Session 2 Recording

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Session 3 Summaries

AI in the Classroom

Date: November 28, 2024
Hosts: Andrew Mowat, LeeAnne Lavender

Padlet Boosted Engagement for AI Tool Sharing

The Padlet we used in breakout room #1 to capture favourite AI tools was a great choice; there was lots of good engagement here.

School.ai Space: Hands-On Experience and Engagement

The school.ai space that Andrew created for this session provided excellent hands-on experience with a new AI tool for all community members; this also fostered excellent engagement.

Focus Areas Set for Final Session

When we asked for feedback from participants about focus areas for session #4, there were several good suggestions in the chat. We have excellent focus areas for our next and last session.
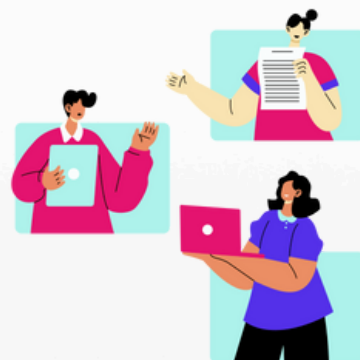
Additional Resources

* Session 3 Slide Deck
* Session 3 Recording
* Session 3 Padlet

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Session 4 Summaries

AI in the Classroom

Date: December 4, 2024
Hosts: Andrew Mowat, LeeAnne Lavender

Academic Integrity

We explored concerns about academic integrity in relation to AI and changing mindsets about cheating and the nature of assessment. Rather than serve as "police" to catch cheating, can teachers be celebrated as coaches who support student learning and skill development? For this to happen, we need to redesign assessments that are "cheatable".

Redesigning Assessments

Emerging competencies for all learners show that current/traditional assessment practices are outdates and inadequate for the type of interdisciplinary, innovative, and creative thinking we need in 2024 and beyond. AI is pushing us into a space where we must evaluate the purpose of assessment and where we can think about innovative models for the future.

Continued dialogue

In four sessions we have explored several ideas and applications for AI in the classroom, and there is much more to learn. As part of this session, we explored additional reading, listening, and watching that can be done to extend learning about this topic.

Additional Resources
* ✳ Session 4 Slide Deck
* ✳ Session 4 Recording
* ✳ Session 4 Padlet

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