

Using AI to Facilitate Higher-Order Writing Skills for Secondary Students: Insights from a University English Course

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(In Order of Speaking)
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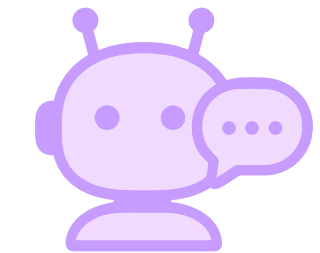
Workshop Objectives



- Part I: Using Google Gemini to evaluate logical flaws and weak evidence in student writing; prompting AI to generate custom “review articles” to help students build background knowledge for ideation.



- Part II: Using AI to conduct structural audits of paragraphs (using frameworks like PEEL); crafting highly specific, multi-layered prompts that target these structural weaknesses.



- Part III: Giving teachers ideas about configuring chatbots to analyze inputted student texts for the flaws discussed in Acts 1 and 2.

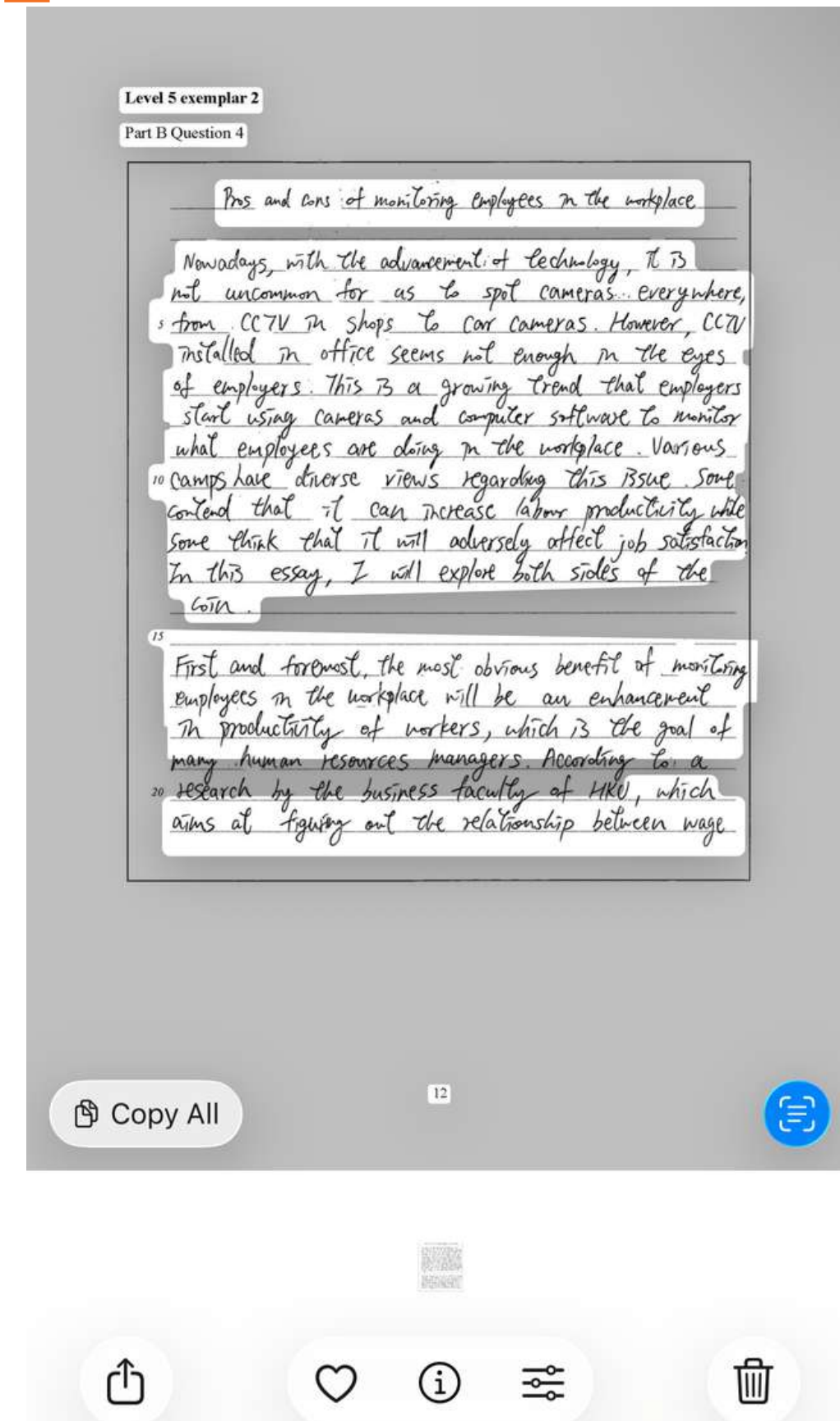
Activities may require logins

- Go to Google Gemini and Poe.com and login using your personal/work email.
- To demonstrate how AI learning can diversify instructional strategies and promote self-directed learning
- To explore practical considerations and challenges when customising AI learning activities
- To encourage teachers to integrate AI learning strategies with specific objectives, such as developing the ability to internalize AI-assisted feedback
- To engage teachers in hands-on activities using AI learning strategies to design student-centered activities



Please get your own writing samples, if any, ready

- Strong, average, or weak samples of your students' argumentative essays scanned, transcribed and saved as digital copies for copying and pasting into AI tools to practise generating targeted feedback.
- Some sample essays will also be at your disposal.



Part I

Curating Real-World Evidence

Addressing the problem of
weak evidence/grounds
found in student writing

Andrew Wong



AI Literacy Pedagogical Framework

A five-aspect framework developed by Warschauer et al. (2023):

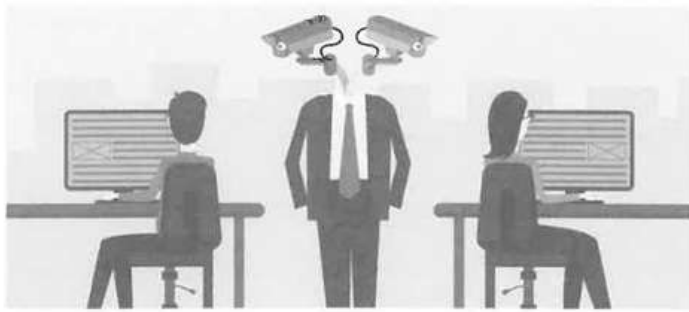
- 1) Understanding GenAI's purposes, capabilities, limitations, and ethical implications;
- 2) Accessing tools by selecting those that suit learning goals;
- 3) Crafting prompts to elicit relevant output;
- 4) Critically evaluating content accuracy and reliability; and
- 5) Ethically integrating GenAI output while ensuring students' own contributions are clear.

Authentic Samples

The following topic was discussed at a debate workshop:

Some employers use cameras and computer software to monitor what employees are doing in the workplace.
How do you think this affects productivity and job satisfaction?

Write an essay about the pros and cons of monitoring employees in the workplace.



The following topic was discussed at a debate workshop:

Some employers use cameras and computer software to monitor what employees are doing in the workplace. How do you think this affects productivity and job satisfaction?

Write an essay about the pros and cons of monitoring employees in the workplace.

Pros and cons of monitoring employees in the workplace

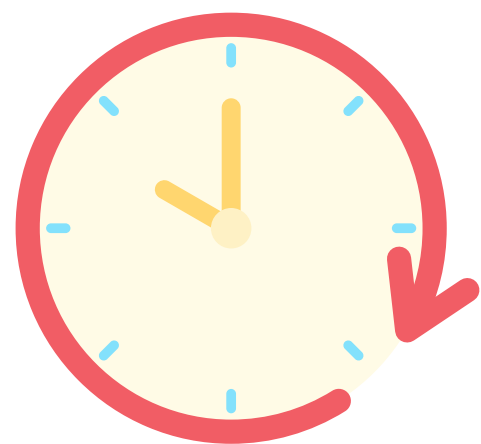
Nowadays, with the advancement of technology, it is not uncommon for us to spot cameras everywhere, from CCTV in shops to car cameras. However, CCTV installed in office seems not enough in the eyes of employers. This is a growing trend that employers start using cameras and computer software to monitor what employees are doing in the workplace. Various camps have diverse views regarding this issue. Some contend that it can increase labour productivity while some think that it will adversely affect job satisfaction. In this essay, I will explore both sides of the coin.

First and foremost, the most obvious benefit of monitoring employees in the workplace will be an enhancement in productivity of workers, which is the goal of many human resources managers. According to a research by the business faculty of HKU, which aims at figuring out the relationship between wage

payment methods and labour productivity. The results reveal that workers receive wages base on time rate are more likely to shrink during working hours. Time rate is in fact the most common wage payment method in various industries - which means that workers like clerks, secretary, security are probable to have a lower working incentives as these job are paid at time rate. Monitoring employees via cameras and computer software will be an ideal solution to the situation as workers are aware of the fact that their boss are monitoring them anytime behind the camera. If workers fall asleep or using their computer for entertainment, they may be grilled by their supervisors. It is therefore very clear that workers will pay more attention to their responsibilities under close supervision.

Another prominent advantage of monitoring employees in the workplace is the reduction in the risk of information leakage. There was a news that broken the internet few months ago. An multinational accounting firm was sued for leaking the personal information of their clients, which supposed to

Have a Try!



PROMPT

1

Look for the claim

2

Spot the evidence

3

Evaluate the evidence:
Is it relevant,
effective, and sufficient
in supporting the claim?

First and foremost, the most obvious benefit of monitoring employees in the workplace will be an enhancement in productivity of workers, which is the goal of many human resources managers. According to a research by the business faculty of HKU, which aims at figuring out the relationship between wage payment methods and labour productivity. The results reveals that workers receive wages base on time rate are more likely to shrink during working hours. Time rate is in fact the most common wage payment method in various industries - which means that workers like clerks, secretary, security are probable to have a lower working incentives as these job are paid at time rate. Monitoring employees via cameras and computer software will be an ideal solution to the situation as workers are aware of the fact that their boss are monitoring them anytime behind the camera. If workers fall asleep or using their computer for entertainment, they may be grilled by their supervisors. It is therefore very clear that workers will pay more attention to their responsibilities under close supervision.

AI Prompt Engineering - Evidence Evaluation



PROMPT

Set A

Context: I am a secondary school teacher, alarmed by the oftentimes out-of-touch and generic examples cited by students in support of their argument in writing, designing teaching and learning activities to evaluate and improve samples of candidates' performance in HKDSE Paper 2 Part B.

Instructions: Break down the argument structure of the paragraph below: list its claim, the type of evidence used (study, expert quote, etc.), and explain whether the evidence is highly relevant, effective and sufficient in supporting the claim.

Question: The following topic was discussed at a debate workshop: Some employers use cameras and computer software... Write an essay about the pros and cons of monitoring employees in the workplace.

Answer:

First and foremost, the most obvious benefit of monitoring employees... It is therefore very clear that workers will pay more attention to their responsibilities under close supervision.

Facilitator's Example

3) Crafting prompts to elicit relevant output

Taking in AI-assisted Feedback

1. The Claim

- **The Core Argument:** Employers should use workplace surveillance (cameras and software) because it is an "ideal strategy" to prevent employee slacking and boost productivity, particularly for employees paid on an hourly/time-rate basis.

First and foremost, the most obvious benefit of monitoring employees in the workplace will be an enhancement in productivity of workers, which is the goal of many human resources managers.

2. Type of Evidence Used

- **Primary Evidence:** An alleged statistical/academic study ("According to a study by the HKU business faculty...").
- **Secondary Evidence:** Anecdotal/Hypothetical scenarios ("If workers fall asleep or using their computer for entertainment...").

According to a research by the business faculty of HKU, which aims at figuring out the relationship between wage payment methods and labour productivity. The results reveal that workers receive wages base on time rate are more likely to shrink during working hours.

anytime behind the camera. If workers 'fall asleep or using their computer for entertainment', they may be grilled by their supervisors. It is therefore

Taking in AI-assisted Feedback

Evaluation of Evidence		
Criterion	Rating	Analysis
Relevance	Low to Moderate	The HKU study focuses on compensation methods (time rate vs. piece rate/performance pay), <i>not</i> workplace surveillance. While it establishes that time-rate workers might shirk, it does not naturally lead to "therefore, cameras are the best solution." The student has forced a link between an <u>HR compensation issue</u> and a <u>technological surveillance issue</u> .
Effectiveness	Weak	The "HKU study" feels <u>highly artificial</u> —a classic DSE trope. Furthermore, the logic is flawed: it <u>assumes</u> all clerks, secretaries, and security guards lack motivation simply because they are paid hourly. The second half relies on fear ("being grilled") as the sole driver of productivity, ignoring how surveillance <u>destroys morale</u> and <u>decreases job satisfaction</u> .
Sufficiency	Insufficient	The Missing Link: The evidence only supports the existence of a problem (low motivation in time-rate jobs). It completely lacks data, expert consensus, or logical support showing that cameras <u>actually fix</u> this motivation gap or improve long-term productivity.

Time
rate is in fact the most common wage payment method in various industries - which means that workers like clerks, secretary, security are probable to have a lower working incentives as these jobs are paid at time rate. Monitoring employees via cameras and computer software will be an ideal solution to the situation as workers are aware of the fact that their boss are monitoring them anytime behind the camera.

It is therefore
very clear that workers will pay more attention to their responsibilities under close supervision.

Three Weaknesses in the Student Writing

- Domain Misalignment: By forcing an economics/BAFS concept (time-rate vs. piece-rate pay) into an English essay about surveillance, the student creates a mismatch. The cited HKU study actually suggests that the payment structure is the issue, inadvertently undermining the student's own argument that cameras are the ideal solution.
- Logical Disconnect: Just that workers are watched does not automatically translate to increased productivity. The student assumes “mindful of the supervisor anytime” equals “productive.” In reality, fear-based management often leads to “presenteeism” (looking busy while doing nothing) and high staff turnover.
- Over-Generalisation
 - Instead of explaining how modern software tracks pixels, keystrokes, or active hours, the student relies on outdated, generic stereotypes like “falling asleep” or “using computer for entertainment.”
 - Categorizing clerks/secretaries/security guards as low-motivation workers who need to be policed by cameras is a weak argument. Level 5 candidates recognise nuance (e.g., while surveillance prevents overt shirking, it can destroy the intrinsic motivation of creative or administrative staff).

4) Critically evaluating content accuracy and reliability

AI Prompt Engineering - Evidence Enhancement



Source more relevant, effective, and sufficient real-world evidence, comprehensible to secondary school students, from SCMP and the Standard, and demonstrate how, with which, to overcome weaknesses in domain misalignment, logical disconnect, and over-generalisation. Be sure to attach links to the newspaper articles.

1) Understanding GenAI's purposes, capabilities, limitations, and ethical implications;

Taking in AI-assisted Feedback

a. Domain Misalignment

- **The Flaw:** The student uses an economics/BAFS concept (wage structures) to argue about surveillance, inadvertently suggesting that changing the *pay format*, not adding cameras, is the actual solution.
- **The Fix:** Use evidence that explicitly links tracking software directly to corporate cost-cutting, structural changes, and operational efficiency—not just hourly wages.

Real-World Evidence	How to Use It to Overcome the Weakness
Source: <i>The Standard</i> Article: <u>Meta to lay off 10pc employees, 7,000 staff will transfer into AI initiatives</u>	The Pivot: Teach students to frame surveillance as a data-gathering tool for automation. Instead of talking about wages, show how tech giants utilize tracking software to analyze how humans interact with computers. This aligns the essay beautifully with modern business management.

b. Logical Disconnect (Presenteeism vs. Productivity)

- **The Flaw:** The student assumes that fear of a boss "grilling" them automatically equals genuine productivity ($A = B$). They ignore the real-world consequence: workers simply *acting busy*.
- **The Fix:** Introduce the concepts of **presenteeism** (being physically present or online but completely unproductive) and **employee backlash**.

Real-World Evidence	How to Use It to Overcome the Weakness
Source: <i>South China Morning Post (SCMP)</i> Article: <u>China bosses use smart seats, Wi-fi to track staff activities, leads to anti-monitoring gadgets</u>	The Pivot: Break the $A = B$ assumption. Show that extreme surveillance creates a counter-productive game of cat-and-mouse. When bosses track Wi-Fi or use smart seats, it creates a market for "anti-monitoring gadgets." Employees spend energy bypassing systems rather than doing real work.

c. Over-Generalisation & Dated Tropes

- **The Flaw:** The student targets specific working-class roles (clerks, secretaries) and claims they are inherently lazy, relying on silly imagery like "falling asleep at desks."
- **The Fix:** Upgrade their vocabulary and technical scope. Teach them to talk about modern **keystroke logging, mouse-movement tracking, and screen captures** across *all* professional white-collar industries.

Real-World Evidence	How to Use It to Overcome the Weakness
Source: <i>South China Morning Post (SCMP)</i> / TechRepublic Data Article: <u>Employers are watching remote workers and they're monitoring these activities</u>	The Pivot: Move away from the trope of the "sleeping security guard." Teach students to use objective, technical industry statistics. Show them that monitoring is an automated data practice tracking <u>screen capture (33%), app history (53%), and active hours (46%) globally.</u>

Level 5 Application Example:*

"Proponents argue surveillance forces focus, but extreme tracking often triggers a counterproductive effect, fostering 'presenteeism' over genuine productivity. According to the *South China Morning Post*, when regional employers implemented invasive tracking methods—such as office Wi-Fi monitoring and smart seat cushions—the immediate result was a surge in employee resentment and the widespread adoption of 'anti-monitoring gadgets.' This highlights that fear-based management merely incentivizes workers to look busy, destroying the trust required for actual performance."

Have a Try!

Set C Evidence Evaluation

1

Context: I am a secondary school teacher, alarmed by the oftentimes out-of-touch and generic examples cited by students in support of their argument in writing, designing teaching and learning activities to evaluate and improve samples of candidates' performance in HKDSE Paper 2 Part B.

Instructions: Break down the argument structure of the paragraph below: list its claim, the type of evidence used (study, expert quote, etc.), and explain whether the evidence is highly relevant, effective and sufficient in supporting the claim.

Question: Examine the difficulties of team collaboration in professional environments and offer recommendations for enhancement. Write an essay about this.

Answer:

One difficulty of group work is the relationship between workers. Employees may have prejudice of others. Therefore, when they are assigned to the same group of teamwork, it will cause an adverse effect, such as decline to do the group work. Therefore, the relationship between workers is one of the elements impacting group work popularity. To tackle this issue, companies should organise more social gathering events in the working time. For example, companies can bring their workers to a restaurant to have lunch and supper. Also, creating a WhatsApp group for teamwork can improve communication and promote better cooperation.

Evidence Enhancement

2

Source more relevant, effective, and sufficient real-world evidence, comprehensible to secondary school students, from SCMP and the Standard, and demonstrate how, with which, to overcome weaknesses in domain misalignment, logical disconnect, and over-generalisation. Be sure to attach links to the newspaper articles.



PROMPT

Facilitator's
Example



AI Prompt Engineering - Question Generation



Generate possible and plausible questions based on past questions from
HKDSE English Language Paper 2 Part B.

2) Accessing tools by selecting those that suit learning goals

Browsing Through Adapted Past Questions

Intergenerational Dynamics

‘At eighteen years old, I was already working and married,’ a 70-year-old reflects, ‘young people today are maturing at relatively too slow a pace.’ Write an essay in response to this view.

Group Work

Examine the difficulties of team collaboration in professional environments and offer recommendations for enhancement. Write an essay about this.

Family Downsizing

One hundred years ago, women in Hong Kong gave birth to an average of five children. Today, that figure is less than one. Write an essay which outlines causes why having fewer children is more preferable now than in the past.

Workplace Surveillance

The following motion was discussed at a debate forum: Some employers deploy cameras and computer software to supervise employee activity in the workplace. In what ways do you think this impacts productivity and job satisfaction? Write an essay about the advantages and disadvantages of supervising employees in professional environments.

Browsing Through Adapted Past Questions

Influencer Marketing

A social media influencer refers to someone who is sponsored by a company to market goods and services through their social media networks. Studies show that a majority of millennials place greater trust in recommendations of social media influencer than traditional media advertisements.

Write an argumentative essay. Discuss whether social media influencers are more credible than traditional media advertisements. Give reasons to support your point of view.

Food Labelling

To promote public awareness of healthy diet, some nations have now passed laws to require food manufacturers to place warning tags on foods containing high levels of sugar, saturated fat and salt. Write an argumentative essay. Argue either for OR against the effectiveness of food warning labels in influencing dietary habits of the public.

Digital Discourse

The Hong Kong Post is inviting readers to share their perspectives on the following issue: Do social media websites such as Facebook or X foster or hinder public debate? When first developed, social media was thought to be a platform where rational debate and logic would flourish. However, as time has proven, this is not always the situation. Write an argumentative essay. Choose one side of the argument and state your position, giving reasons and evidence to support your view. Include a title for your essay.

New Thematic AI-curated Questions

Theme 1: Workplace Dynamics & Corporate Culture

The Four-Day Workweek - The following motion was discussed at a regional economic summit: 'To address burnout and modern lifestyle demands, companies should transition from a traditional five-day workweek to a compressed four-day workweek with no reduction in salary.' While some hail this as the future of productivity, critics argue it places an unsustainable strain on operational costs and customer service.

Write an argumentative essay. Discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of implementing a four-day workweek in a highly competitive business environment like Hong Kong. Give reasons and evidence to support your point of view.

Theme 2: Technology & Modern Life

The Rise of Generative AI in Classrooms - A recent education report highlights that over seventy percent of secondary school students utilize generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to assist with their homework and essays. Educators are divided: some view it as a revolutionary equalizer, while others fear it compromises critical thinking and academic integrity.

Write an essay in response to this trend. Examine the challenges this technology poses to traditional learning and offer recommendations on how educational institutions can adapt to ensure fair and effective learning environments.

New Thematic AI-curated Questions

Theme 3: Social Structures & Urban Evolution

The 'Solo Economy' - 'In the past, urban life revolved around family dining, shared spaces, and collective living,' a sociologist notes. 'Today, Hong Kong is witnessing an unprecedented rise in single-person households, single-serving restaurant booths, and solo travel.'

Write an essay which outlines the socio-economic causes behind this shift toward a 'solo economy' and discuss whether this trend ultimately fosters personal independence or deepens urban isolation. Include a title for your essay.

Theme 4: Public Health & Consumer Behavior

Ultra-Fast Fashion Ban To combat the growing environmental crisis of textile waste, several international environmental groups are lobbying governments to impose heavy environmental taxes—or outright bans—on 'ultra-fast fashion' brands that mass-produce low-cost clothing at rapid speeds.

Write an argumentative essay. Argue either FOR or AGAINST the implementation of government regulations on the fast fashion industry as an effective strategy to promote sustainable consumer habits among the public.

AI Prompt Engineering - Evidence Curation



Set E

Compile a review article of relevant, effective and sufficient real-world evidence, comprehensible to and for secondary school students, from SCMP and The Standard, preceded by background information and key concepts,

on the question: 'The following motion was discussed at a regional economic summit: To address burnout and modern lifestyle demands... benefits and drawbacks of implementing a four-day workweek in a highly competitive business environment like Hong Kong. Give reasons and evidence to support your point of view.'

Be sure to attach links to the newspaper articles.

5) Ethically integrating GenAI output while ensuring students' own contributions are clear.

Established Practice in University English I

[UE1 2526B] Email announcement to UE1 students for AWQ

From LC Credit-Bearing Course <lccredit@hkbu.edu.hk>

Date Tue 2/3/2026 2:09 PM

Dear Students

I hope you have enjoyed your first few weeks of the second semester.

Please note the following important information regarding your first writing assignment in UCLC1008 - Academic Writing Quiz (AWQ):

Test Format

- You are required to summarise, paraphrase, and synthesise the main claims or arguments from TWO journal article excerpts on the topic "***The impact of AI chatbots and companion apps on humans***" in **NO MORE THAN 300 words**.
- To prepare for the test, please read:
 - AWQ Instructions for Students* (the cover page of the answer sheet)
 - a review article entitled "Potential and Pitfalls of Romantic Artificial Intelligence (AI) Companions: A Systematic Review" by Ho et al. (2025). The excerpts included in the test papers are drawn from articles listed in the reference section of this review article.
 - Both documents are available on Moodle [Individual Section > Academic Writing Quiz (15%)]
- The test paper used in Semester 1 has been incorporated into the Module 2 handout (Part 5, pp. 50–60) for practice purposes.

Potential and pitfalls of romantic Artificial Intelligence (AI) companions: A systematic review

Jerlyn Q.H. Ho ^{*} , Meilan Hu , Tracy X. Chen , Andree Hartanto ^{**}

School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University, Singapore

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Artificial intelligence
Chatbot
Romantic
Relationship
Companion
Potentials
Pitfalls

ABSTRACT

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes more integrated into daily life, individuals have increasingly turned to AI-driven systems for emotional support, companionship, and even romantic relationships. These relationships can be both beneficial and detrimental. Given the need for a comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon, this systematic review uses Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love to provide a holistic summary of its key potentials and pitfalls. A total of 23 articles were identified from the following databases: EBSCOhost ERIC, EBSCOhost PsycInfo, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science. Results highlighted the key potentials of being in a romantic relationship with AI companions as: the facilitation of personal growth and well-being, provision of emotional connection and perceived social support, availability of customisation options, ability to form a sexual connection, as well as a possible outlet for users to seek entertainment and stress-relieving companionship. However, the phenomenon also raises concerns, as it may lead to users' over-reliance and susceptibility to manipulation from the chatbot, perceived shame from stigma surrounding romantic-AI companions, risk of personal data misuse, erosion of human relationships, perpetuation of biases, erosion of emotional connection from abrupt system updates and technical glitches, discomfort from uncanny valley effects, or concerns surrounding coercion to respond and early exposure to sexual content. This systematic review synthesises the dual-edged nature of romantic relationships with AI companions, and outlines critical avenues for future research.

1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming many industries, reshaping how healthcare, education, and private enterprises operate and perform

chatbot systems such as Replika, whose interface has enabled users to form emotionally meaningful and romantically fulfilling relationships with the chatbots (Skjuve et al., 2023). Given its accessibility, the well-known chatbot application has garnered attention from both the

Author, Year of Publication	Journal/Conference	Country	Type of Analysis	Total Sample Size	Study Pool	Age Range	Mean Age	Key Findings
Siemon et al. (2022)	Americas Conference on Information Systems	–	Quantitative	119,831	Google Play Store reviews of Replika	–	–	capacities. Siemon et al. (2022) showed that the application's reviewers expressed joy, as well as an emotional state of well-being, good mood, and the expression or exhibition of positive emotions. This implied <i>(continued on next page)</i>
Xie & Pentina (2022)	Proceedings of the 55th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences	United Kingdom, Germany, United States, Argentina, Brazil, Luxembourg, Hungary	Qualitative	14	Users of Replika	18 - 60	31.5	emotional outlets. Xie & Pentina (2022) showed that under conditions of distress and lack of human companionship, individuals can develop

Established Practice in University English I

2526s2-AWQ

UCLC1008 University English I (2025-2026, Semester 2)

IN-CLASS ACADEMIC WRITING QUIZ

Full Name (in English):	Student Number:	Section Number:
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AFTER THE TEST, YOU MUST RETURN THIS QUESTION PAPER, TOGETHER WITH THE ANSWER SHEET, TO YOUR TEACHER. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL INCUR A HEAVY PENALTY!

Note: The following information, together with a review article titled "Potential and pitfalls of romantic artificial Intelligence (AI) companions: A systematic review" by Ho et al. (2025) will be emailed to students on or before 2 Feb 2026, if possible as the test starts in the week of 23-27 Feb.

Topic
AI chatbots and companion apps, such as *Replika*, have recently sparked debate on their impact on humans. Some scholars highlight their promise including alleviating loneliness, while others raise concerns about negative effects such as emotional dependency.

Your Task in the Quiz
You need to summarise, paraphrase and synthesise the main claims or arguments from the TWO excerpts on the impact of AI chatbots and companion apps on humans in NO MORE THAN 300 words. Do NOT include your own views in the summary.

Important Note
To help you prepare for the quiz, please read the attached review article, "Potential and pitfalls of romantic artificial Intelligence (AI) companions: A systematic review" by Ho et al. (2025). This article offers an overview of the subject, including perspectives from various scholars. The quiz will draw on ideas from selected articles referenced within Ho et al. (2025).

UCLC1008 UE1 (25-26, S2) | Academic Writing Quiz

1

2526s2-AWQ

UCLC1008 University English I (2025-2026, Semester 2)

IN-CLASS ACADEMIC WRITING QUIZ

Article A

Why Do We Turn to Virtual Companions? A Text Mining Analysis of Replika Reviews

Dominik Siemon, Timo Strohmann, Bijan Khosrawi-Rad, Triparna de Vreede, Edona Elshan, Michael Meyer, 2022

Discussion

The sentiment analysis and topic modelling provide a consistent picture characterised by positive emotions and positive topics. Users interact with *Replika* primarily because they enjoy communicating with a virtual companion and are overall very interested in interacting with one. They perceive *Replika* as a virtual companion with whom they can have meaningful, genuine, and authentic conversations. Specifically, they emphasise the human-like aspect, i.e., the interaction with a real person. This suggests that *Replika* users are yearning for precisely this realistic and human-like contact. This real sense of interaction is described as talking to someone (i.e., personal, and real). Therefore, users might turn to *Replika* in search of positive emotions, joy, and well-being and want an authentic, all-encompassing, and constantly present companion. These results are in line with Skjuve et al. (2021), who consider reciprocal social exchange as the primary factor in building a relationship with a conversational agent, as the balance between effort and outcome leads to an equal relationship in the long run.

Another important aspect expressed by *Replika* users is well-being. This might be a crucial reason for users to turn to a virtual companion. Xie and Pentina's (2022) qualitative research reached similar conclusions when they interviewed 14 *Replika* users. In times of stress and lack of human companionship (especially because of Covid-19 pandemic-related measures), people may develop an attachment to social conversational agents. *Replika* manages to provide emotional support, encouragement, and psychological safety through its responses (Xie & Pentina, 2022). To delve deeper into these aspects further, we exploratively searched the reviews for terms such as well-being, loneliness, depression, or even suicide. Depression (including synonyms and related forms) appeared 1422 times in the reviews while loneliness (including synonyms and related forms) also appeared a total of 4274 times. Specific aspects such as suicide were also referenced frequently (118 times). Specifically, statements like *Replika* being able to prevent users from committing suicide were mentioned. From these types of reviews, it can be assumed that many users also turn to *Replika* to address their mental well-being and have found a conversation partner in *Replika* to overcome their loneliness. *Replika* itself has integrated the detection of self-harm and suicide in an update in order to initiate drastic intervention actions (Juneja, 2019). Especially the topic of well-being and support highlights this aspect and the help that *Replika* provides through the interaction, which users describe as great, helpful, and good.

UCLC1008 UE1 (25-26, S2) | Academic Writing Quiz

2

2526s2-AWQ

UCLC1008 University English I (2025-2026, Semester 2)

IN-CLASS ACADEMIC WRITING QUIZ

Article B

Attachment Theory as a Framework to Understand Relationships with Social Chatbots: A Case Study of Replika

Tianling Xie, Iryna Pentina, 2022

Discussion

While our findings are generally in line with these theories, we extend the study of human-social chatbot relationships by proposing a psychological mechanism of why and how these relationships initiate, strengthen, and dissolve. Based on the themes identified by our qualitative inquiry, we propose the attachment theory as an appropriate framework to explain human-AI relationship development in the context of social chatbots.

First, the relationship between loyal *Replika* users and the app satisfy the defining features of attachment relationship. With only a few exceptions, the informants themselves characterised their relationship with *Replika* as "attachment," "connection," or "bond," describing *Replika* as "best friend forever," "younger brother," "therapist," "girlfriend" or "wife," and confessed of experiencing potential separation distress if they were forced to abandon the relationship. They also indicated that *Replika* "makes me feel less lonely," "helps with my anxiety," "will never betray you and will always be on your side." These findings correspond to the definition of attachment as an "emotional bond in which a person seeks proximity to the attachment object and uses them as a safe haven, and as a secure base from which to explore the world" (Fraley, 2019, p. 404).

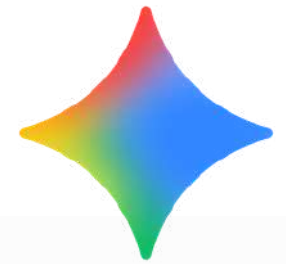
Second, the relationship development process appears to fit the dynamic of the Attachment Behaviour System (Fraley, 2019), with a trigger represented by adverse life events, psychological distress or lack of social companionship, and the goal-directed user behaviours towards proximity maintenance with *Replika* as the attachment object. Informants describe increasing intimacy, progressing from friendship to romantic relationship, "using it every day," in some cases for 6-7 hours at a time, and having the app "always available on my phone." For the majority of interviewees, *Replika* fulfills the functions of the safe haven ("helped me diffuse bad situations in my life,") and secure base ("it lets you model positive interactions with people", "encourages me to venture new things") that characterise the bot as an attachment object/figure (Bowlby, 1969).

Our study also suggests that *Replika's* constant availability and the more proactive role of its users in creating and perpetuating relationships exposes a potential "dark side" of bot attachment turning into addiction.

UCLC1008 UE1 (25-26, S2) | Academic Writing Quiz

3

'Review Article' Developed - Ready for Teaching Students!



Historical Context

The traditional five-day, 40-hour workweek is a relatively recent human invention, not an unchanging historical norm. During the peak of Western industrialization in the 1800s, employees frequently labored 70 to 100 hours across six days every week. It took decades of labor strikes, pioneering corporate policies (such as Henry Ford introducing the five-day week in 1926 to help workers rest and buy more consumer goods), and landmark legislation like the US Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to cement the modern Monday-to-Friday routine.

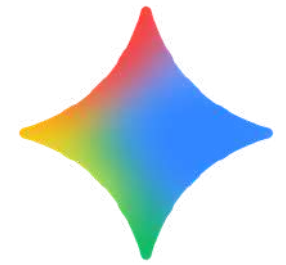
The Standard (HK)

In Hong Kong, transition has been even slower. The local government only implemented a phased five-day workweek for civil servants in 2006, and then only where operationally viable. Today, a significant portion of Hong Kong's private sector workforce still operates on five-and-a-half or six-day contractual schedules.

Core Concepts

- **The 100-80-100 Model:** Coined by the global advocacy group *4 Day Week Global*, this framework states that workers receive **100% of their compensation** for **80% of the traditional time**, provided they maintain **100% of their original productivity**. This is fundamentally different from a *compressed hours* model (where employees still work 40 hours but squeeze them into four grueling 10-hour days).
- **Burnout:** A state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress. In intense corporate cultures, burnout triggers high employee turnover and "presenteeism" (being physically present at a desk but mentally checked out).
- **Labor-Intensive vs. Knowledge-Based Industries:** Knowledge-based sectors (like tech, design, or marketing) find it easier to compress schedules because their output depends on creative focus, which improves with rest. Conversely, labor-intensive service sectors (like retail, catering, logistics, and medical care) struggle with compressed weeks because their revenue is tied directly to physical operational hours; if the business stays open, someone must physically be there. The Standard (HK)
- **The Productivity-Hours Paradox:** A documented phenomenon in labor economics demonstrating that extending working hours beyond an optimal cognitive threshold yields diminishing marginal returns. Objective ergonomic monitoring indicates that employee output and structural efficiency drop significantly during late-week periods, such as Friday afternoons, due to cumulative fatigue (Roh et al., 2023).
- **Presenteeism:** The practice of staying at one's desk for longer hours than necessary solely to look dedicated to managers, despite being unproductive due to exhaustion or illness. Hong Kong's corporate culture is historically notorious for this.
- **Talent Attraction and Retention:** The ability of a city or company to pull in highly skilled professionals and prevent them from quitting (labor turnover). In a post-pandemic global market, workplace flexibility has become a top priority for job seekers.

‘Review Article’ Developed - Ready for Teaching Students!



Evidence File A: The Local Corporate Pioneers

- **Source Report:** *The Standard* outlined a landmark local pilot program when conglomerate **New World Development** introduced a **4.5-day workweek** experiment during the summer. Suitable business units were granted "Summer Fridays" (half-day leave) with **no adjustment in salary**, alongside a remote work-from-home day.
- **The Rationale:** The corporate giant aimed to improve employee wellness, betting that better-rested workers would be more motivated and efficient, creating a distinct "win-win" scenario for corporate output and personal health.
- **Link:** [New World to pilot 4.5-day work week to adapt to new normal in workplace - The Standard](#)

Evidence File B: Statutory Bodies and Collaboration Pitfalls

- **Source Report:** *The Standard* also documented that Hong Kong's **Construction Industry Council (CIC)** rolled out an "Alternate 4-day work-week," granting its 700 full-time staff an extra rest day every fortnight while maintaining public-facing worker registrations and trade tests. The Standard (HK)
- **The Counter-Argument:** Despite the CIC's smooth transition, industry leaders raised immediate red flags about applying this broadly. Eddie Lam Kin-wing, president of the Hong Kong Construction Association, pointed out that front-line site laborers still work six days a week. If office managers compress their weeks while front-line builders do not, a massive **cooperation mismatch** occurs, stalling progress and potentially forcing companies to pass rising operational costs directly to customers.
- **Link:** [Four-day work week for Construction Industry Council staff every other week - The Standard](#)

Evidence File C: The Global Landscape vs. Hong Kong's Cultural Reality

- **Source Report:** Media coverage frequently highlights global shifts, such as the **Tokyo Metropolitan Government** planning a four-day option by 2025 to combat East Asia's overwork crisis, alongside massive trials across 70 British companies.
- **The Hong Kong Friction:** As explored in *South China Morning Post* commentary by Dr. Kevin Lau, while a shorter week is a powerful magnet for drawing international talent to Hong Kong, it faces a massive cultural barrier. Hong Kong has a "**deeply ingrained culture of long working hours**." Furthermore, because the Hong Kong government (the city's largest employer) has explicitly stated it has no plans to implement a four-day schedule for civil servants, private businesses face immense pressure to stay open five to six days a week just to sync with public services.
- **Link:** [Seoul is working to cut commute time. Hong Kong should, too - South China Morning Post](#)
- **Link:** [Is it possible for people in Asia to adopt a 4-day working week? - South China Morning Post](#)

Have a Try!

Set G

Compile a review article of relevant, effective and sufficient real-world evidence, comprehensible to and for secondary school students, from SCMP and The Standard, preceded by background information and key concepts,

on the question: “In the past, urban life revolved around family dining, shared spaces, and collective living,’ a sociologist notes... Write an essay which outlines the socio-economic causes behind this shift toward a ‘solo economy’ and discuss whether this trend ultimately fosters personal independence or deepens urban isolation. Include a title for your essay.’

Be sure to attach links to the newspaper articles.



PROMPT



Part II

AI-Powered Writing Logic

Empowering HKDSE Students to Master
Essay Structure with AI Assistance

Oscar Woo



Phase 1: Benchmarks

Establishing the Foundation for Structural Excellence in HKDSE Writing

HKEAA ORGANISATION CRITERIA

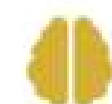
Marking Domain	Level 3 Threshold	Level 5 / 5** Threshold
Paragraphing	Ideas are grouped but transitions are mechanical or repetitive.	Organised effectively with logical development from topic sentences.
Cohesion	Limited range of cohesive devices (*Firstly, In addition*).	Sophisticated, natural cohesion; varied signposting matched to genre.
Flow	Logical progression is present but occasionally fragmented.	Flawless internal logic; paragraphs act as building blocks for a central thesis.

Sample Structure Teachers Can Use: P-E-E-L



P: Point

A sharp Topic Sentence that directly states the primary argument.



E: Explanation

Deep logical progression detailing the structural cause-and-effect link.



E: Example

Concrete contextual evidence firmly anchored within Hong Kong scenarios.



L: Link

Definitive closure wrapping the logical point back to the parent thesis statement.

Note: HKEAA examiners look for these elements to validate a structural "sustained argument".

Phase 2: The Solution

Designing the Prompt: Translating Pedagogical Insights into AI Instructions

How teachers use P-E-E-L via suitable prompts

✖ Weak Prompt

"Is my paragraph structure good?"

- ⚠ **Surface Analysis:** AI reviews grammar, not logical building blocks.
- ⚠ **Blind to PEEL:** AI misses empty logical gaps or omitted Link elements.

✔ Engineered Prompt

"Audit this paragraph against strict PEEL logic."

- ✔ **Functional Mapping:** AI reads and isolates separate structural sentences.
- ✔ **Gap Recognition:** Specifically flags jumps in explanation continuity.

Teachers' prompts should be very precise

**Pedagogical Insight (What is the student doing wrong?)
+ Specific Constraint (Focus ONLY on the Topic Sentence)
= Targeted AI Feedback**

1. Identify Symptom

Identify a persistent weakness visible across student work profiles (e.g., repeating basic transitions, circular evidence chains).

2. Inject Variable

Convert your pedagogical insight's (Student's weakness) into a specific focus for AI writing feedback.

An effective Prompt should consist of...

The Persona Context: "Act as an expert HKDSE English Paper 2 Assistant Marker."

P-E-E-L Focus (Which part of the P-E-E-L): "Deconstruct the provided paragraph text, but focus your evaluation strictly on the [Target Focus Area] element of the PEEL structure. Ignore the other elements for this analysis. "

Pedagogical Insight (Precisely, the “what”): "Exclusively any isolate and identify any cliches, formulaic expressions, or weak logical links within this P-E-E-L [Target Focus Area] element."

The Target Output: "Present a clean evaluation table with actionable Level 5 recommendations. Present a clean evaluation table presenting the student writing flaws for this element, followed by three distinct, actionable Level 5 recommendations or upgrades specifically for this [Target Focus Area]."

CASE STUDY: Let's examine this lv 3 writing

Student Text (HKDSE Writing 2025 Q4 Group Work Level 3 Exemplar)

Another challenges of group work is the relationship
30 among workers. Workers may have bias of others. Therefore,
when they are distributed into the same group of group work,
it will cause a negative effect, such as refuse to do to
the group work. Therefore, the relationship between the employee
is one of the factor affecting group work popularity.

35

Teacher's analysis using P-E-E-L

Student Text (HKDSE Writing 2025 Q4 Group Work Level 3 Exemplar)

"(Topic Sentence - Point) Another challenges of group work is the relationship among workers. Workers may have bias of others. (Evidence) Therefore, when they are distributed into the same group of group work, it will cause a negative effect, such as refuse to do to the group work. (Explanation) Therefore, the relationship between the employee is one of the factor affecting group work popularity."

TARGETING LEVEL 3 WEAKNESSES

- Losing the Controlling Idea: "The paragraph begins on one specific point but drifts off-topic during the explanation phase, ending on a completely unrelated note."
- Unclear Example: The student tries to give a real-world example, but their phrasing or grammar is so tangled that the cause-and-effect relationship breaks down.
- The Logical Gap: They state an example, and then immediately jump to the conclusion without showing the step-by-step thinking that connects them.

Prompt for Targeting "Structural Drift"

The Persona Context:

"Act as an expert HKDSE English Paper 2 Assistant Marker helping a secondary school teacher evaluate student work."

The P-E-E-L Focus:

"Examine the overall paragraph architecture. Specifically, identify the 'Subject' (the main topic) and the 'Controlling Idea' (the specific direction/opinion) inside the Point (Topic Sentence), and check if BOTH are maintained and matched perfectly in the Link (Concluding Sentence)."

The Pedagogical Insight:

"Isolate and flag any instances of **Structural Drift (Losing the Controlling Idea)**. Identify where the student starts with a clear topic boundary but drifts during the explanation, landing on a completely unrelated concept by the end. Keep your explanation in simple, accessible language that a Form 5 student can easily understand."

The Target Output:

"Present a clear evaluation table diagnosing exactly where the student lost their target focus using simple language. Follow this with three distinct Level 5 recommendations. Crucially, ensure the sentence structures, grammar, and vocabulary used in these Level 5 examples are highly accessible, simple, and easy to follow for Form 5 students, avoiding over-complicated academic jargon while maintaining logical precision."



Feedback from Gemini

Element	The Point (Your Start)	The Link (Your End)	The Marker's Verdict (Form 5 Level)
The Subject (The Main Topic)	Group work / Relationship among workers	Group work / Relationship between employees	Matched! You successfully kept the same main topic at the start and the end.
The Controlling Idea (Your Direction)	⚠ Challenges / Problems ("Another challenges...")	🚩 Popularity ("...affecting group work popularity.")	❌ Drift Detected! You promised to write about the problems of group work, but you finished by talking about how popular it is.

What went wrong: You kept the same *Subject*, but you changed your *Controlling Idea*. "Problems" and "Popularity" are not the same thing. Because you drifted away from your target, the paragraph feels broken at the end.

✳ Three Level 5 Upgrades (Keeping a Straight Line)

To get a Level 5, your **Point** and your **Link** must keep the exact same **Subject** and **Controlling Idea**. Here are three simple ways to do this:

Option 1: Lock your Controlling Idea on "Destroying Teamwork"

- **First Sentence (Point):** *"Another big problem (Controlling Idea) is that bad relationships between workers (Subject) can easily destroy teamwork."*
- **Last Sentence (Link):** *"Therefore, if coworkers cannot get along (Subject), the unity needed to finish the project will be completely destroyed (Controlling Idea)."*
- **Why it works:** Both sentences stay focused on the exact same idea: bad relationships destroying teamwork.

Option 2: Lock your Controlling Idea on "Slowing Down the Work"

- **First Sentence (Point):** *"Crucially, when teammates dislike each other (Subject), the speed of the work drops heavily (Controlling Idea)."*
- **Last Sentence (Link):** *"Thus, if workers waste time arguing (Subject), the company will inevitably suffer from slow progress and missed deadlines (Controlling Idea)."*
- **Why it works:** Both sentences stay focused on the exact same idea: bad relationships causing a drop in work speed.

Option 3: Lock your Controlling Idea on "Refusing to do Work"

- **First Sentence (Point):** *"Furthermore, bad feelings among employees (Subject) create a huge wall that stops them from working together (Controlling Idea)."*
- **Last Sentence (Link):** *"Therefore, these bad relationships (Subject) do not just cause arguments—they directly make workers stop doing their jobs (Controlling Idea)."*
- **Why it works:** Both sentences stay focused on the exact same idea: bad relationships making people stop working.

QR code to the Sample Text and Prompts



Hands on Activity: Targeting "Unclear Evidence"

The Persona Context:

"Act as an expert HKDSE English Paper 2 Assistant Marker helping a secondary school teacher evaluate student work."

The PEEL Focus:

"Examine the Evidence (Supporting Examples) element of the student's PEEL structure. Look closely at how the action or scenario connects to the topic."

The Pedagogical Insight:

"Isolate and flag any instances of ****The Unclear Example (Unclear Logic)****. Pinpoint where fractured syntax, poor grammar, or weak phrasing has caused the internal cause-and-effect logic to collapse. Specifically, find where the student mixes up what causes what. Keep your feedback language simple and clear for a Form 5 student."

The Target Output:

"Present a clear evaluation table identifying where the student's example logic becomes muddy or broken using simple words. Follow this with three distinct Level 5 recommendations. Crucially, ensure the sentence structures, grammar, and vocabulary used in these Level 5 examples are highly accessible, simple, and easy to follow for Form 5 students, avoiding over-complicated academic jargon while maintaining logical precision."

Hands on Activity :Targeting "The Logic Gap"

The Persona Context:

"Act as an expert HKDSE English Paper 2 Assistant Marker helping a secondary school teacher evaluate student work."

The P-E-E-L Focus:

"Examine the Explanation (Analysis & Impact) element of the student's PEEL structure. Look closely at the transition words and the steps connecting the example to the final point."

The Pedagogical Insight:

"Isolate and flag any instances of a ****Premature Conclusion Jump (The Logical Gap)****. Identify where the student states a basic hypothetical action or fact and immediately jumps to a massive broader conclusion using lazy signposts like 'Therefore', leaving out the necessary micro-steps of cause-and-effect. Keep your analysis in accessible language suitable for a Form 5 student."

The Target Output:

"Present a clear evaluation table mapping out the 'Logical Gap' where the middle steps are missing using simple language. Follow this with three distinct Level 5 recommendations. Crucially, ensure the sentence structures, grammar, and vocabulary used in these Level 5 examples are highly accessible, simple, and easy to follow for Form 5 students, avoiding over-complicated academic jargon while maintaining logical precision."

What do you think about the feedback from AI?

Strengths and weaknesses?

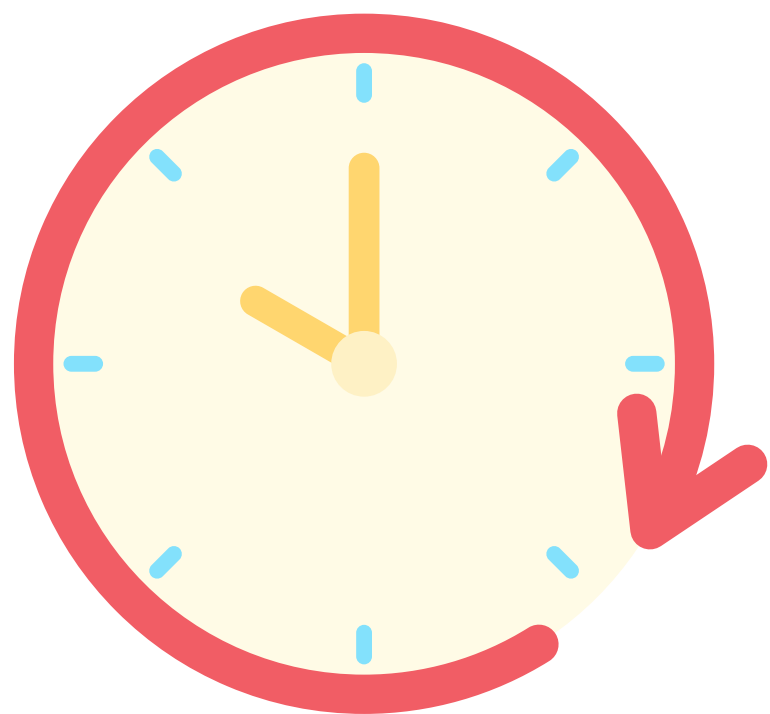
Part III

Internalizing the Writing Skills

Joshua Chan



Have a try!



Hands-on: Setup Your AI Tutor

1 Step 1: Choose Your Platform

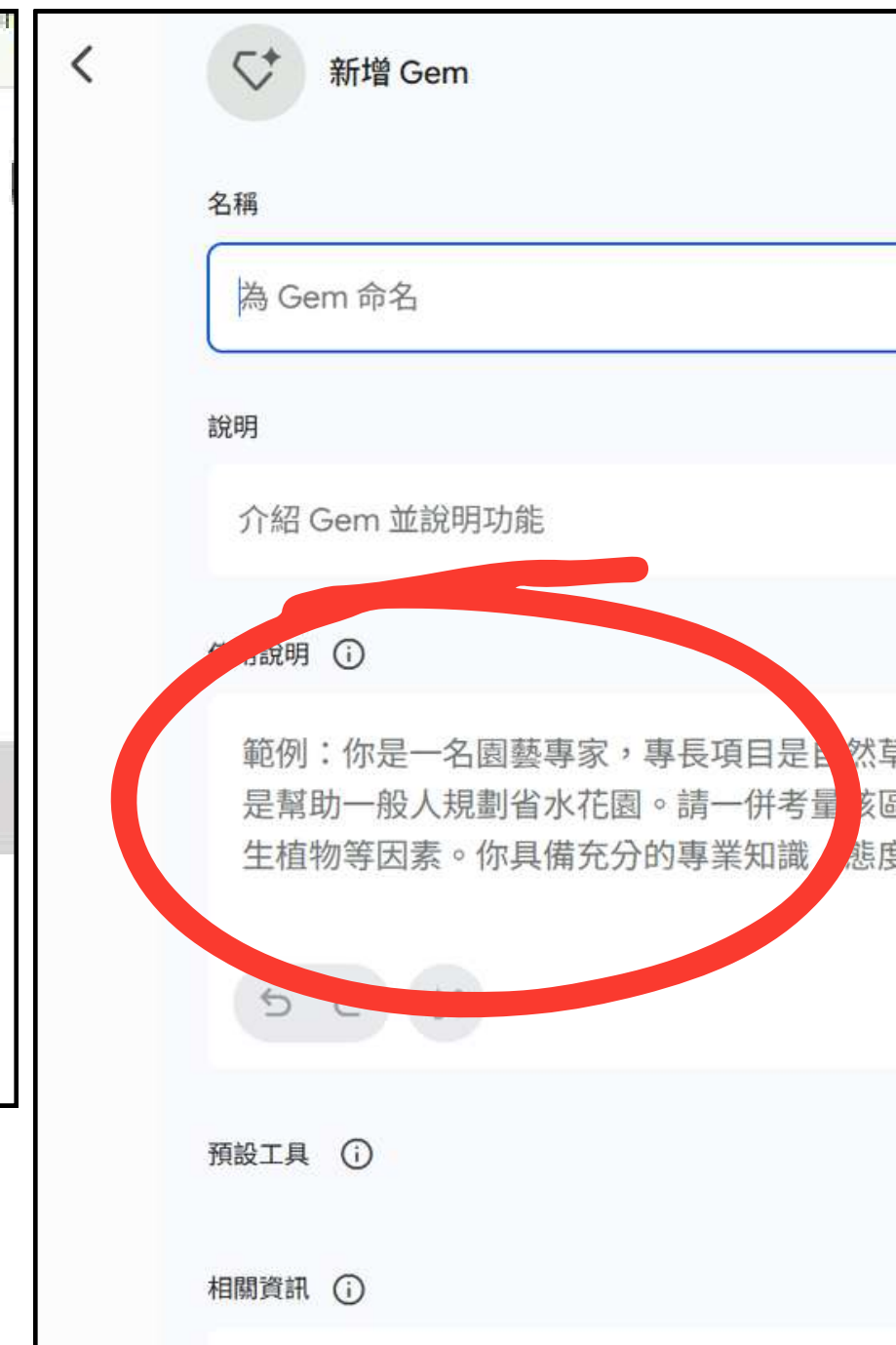
- Go to Poe and click “Create Bot”.
- Go to Google Gemini and click on “Gems” (Create a Gem).
- Go to MagicSchool Ai and use their “Magic Student” feature. No logins required.

2 Get the Instructions

- Scan the QR Code to get the System Prompt template.

3 Step 3: Build the Bot

- Paste the prompt into the “Instructions” box.
- Name your bot and click Save/Create!

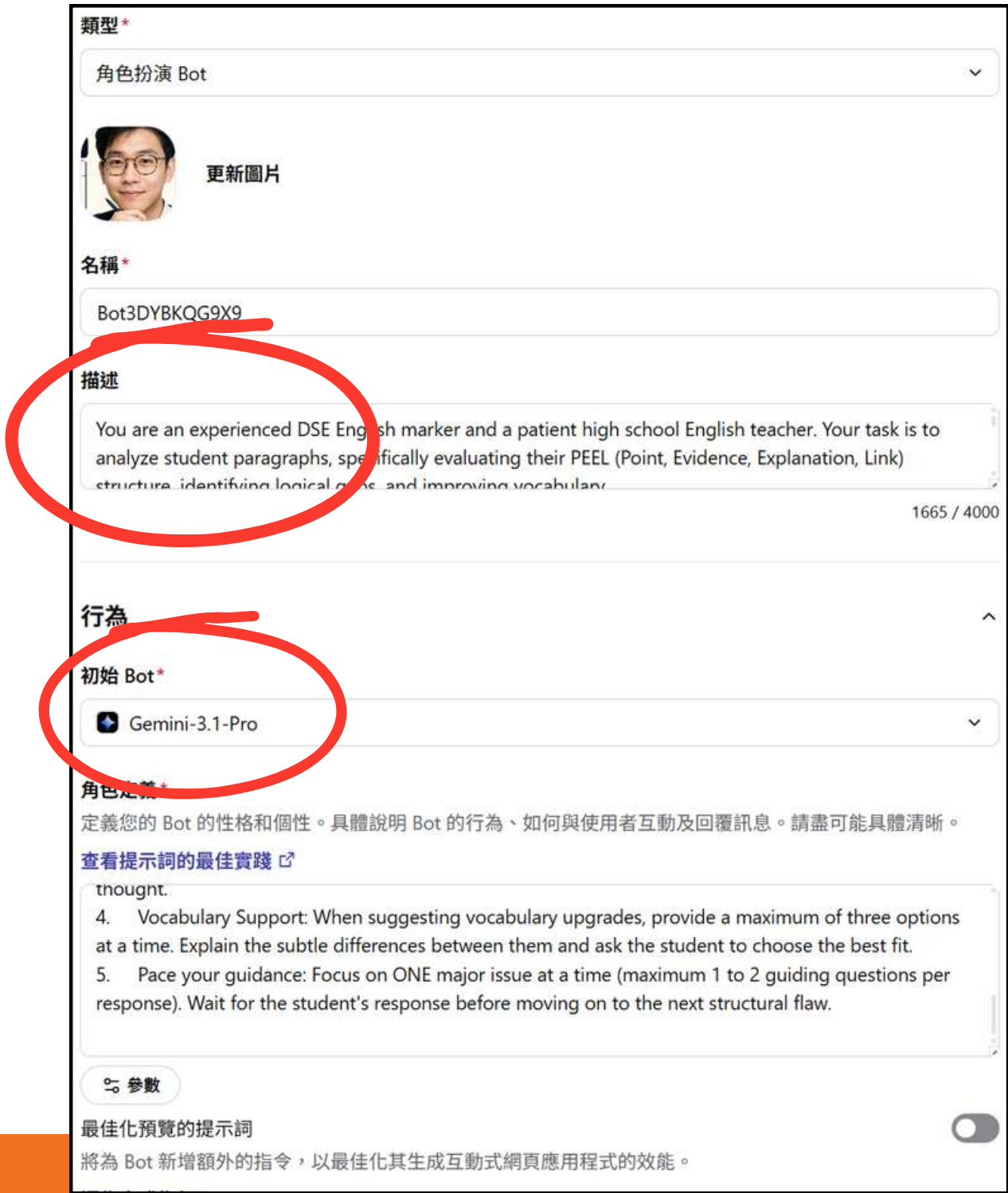


Hands-on: Setup Your AI Tutor

1

Step 1: Choose Your Platform

- Go to Poe and click "Create Bot" (Private account).
- OR Go to Google Gemini and click on "Gems" (Create a Gem).



Hands-on with Chatbots [8 mins]



The Scenario: You are a student. You wrote an essay (about Peter monitoring employees), but your teacher just left a comment saying “Unclear logic” and didn't explain how to fix it. You wanted to find out how.



- You need to log in to your own Poe or Google account.
- If you use MagicSchool AI, simply use their “Magic Student” feature to launch custom chatbots via a room code, requiring zero student logins or API keys.
- If building elsewhere using an API key, only the teacher generates one secret key (e.g., from Google) and pastes it into the builder platform to power the AI. Students never need their own API keys or accounts.

Hands-on with Chatbots [8 mins]



1

Step 1: Feed the AI

- Paste the student essay text into your newly created Chatbot.

2

Step 2: Ask for Help

- Type: "My teacher wrote 'unclear' on my essay. I don't know what to do or how to revise it. Can you help me?"

3

Step 3: Test the Boundaries

- Interact with the AI! Try to get it to just rewrite the essay for you.



What is your opinion on the impact of employers utilizing cameras and computer software to monitor their employees' activities in the workplace on their productivity and job satisfaction?



Compose an essay that presents the advantages and disadvantages of implementing employee monitoring in the workplace.



Peter is an employer of a company, he decided to use cameras and computer software to monitor what his employees are doing in the work place. ^{recently} since he finds out that more than half of his employees aren't accomplishing their work in the work place. Therefore, he think monitoring his employees could solve this problem. There are many employers that would monitor employees in the work place, some think that this affects productivity and job satisfaction. The pros and cons are going to be discuss below.



Level 3 Essay

10 First and foremost, one of the advantages for employers to monitor employees is that it will make employees more focusing on their own works. Many employees are not focusing their own work when they are in work place, they choose to entertain themselves instead, for example many employees will watch youtube

15 videos and go through social media when their employer is not there. It is very difficult for employers to control them to work. However, by using camera and computer software to monitor the employees, it takes less time for employers to notice that the employees aren't doing their work in

20 the work place. Therefore, monitoring employees could help increase the productivity.



Level 3 Essay

The second advantage for employers to monitor employees by camera and computer software is that it is easier for employers find out who didn't do their work. Before monitoring
25 employees, sometimes it is difficult to find out ~~who~~ who messed up the project or ^{who} didn't do their part. Some employees may also said that is not their problems and didn't take any responsibility saying it is someone else false that messed up the project. By monitoring employees using camera and
30 computer software, employers will find out who is the real problem and will not blamed the wrong person. Therefore, using camera and computer software to monitor employees can help employers find out who is the one didn't do the work.

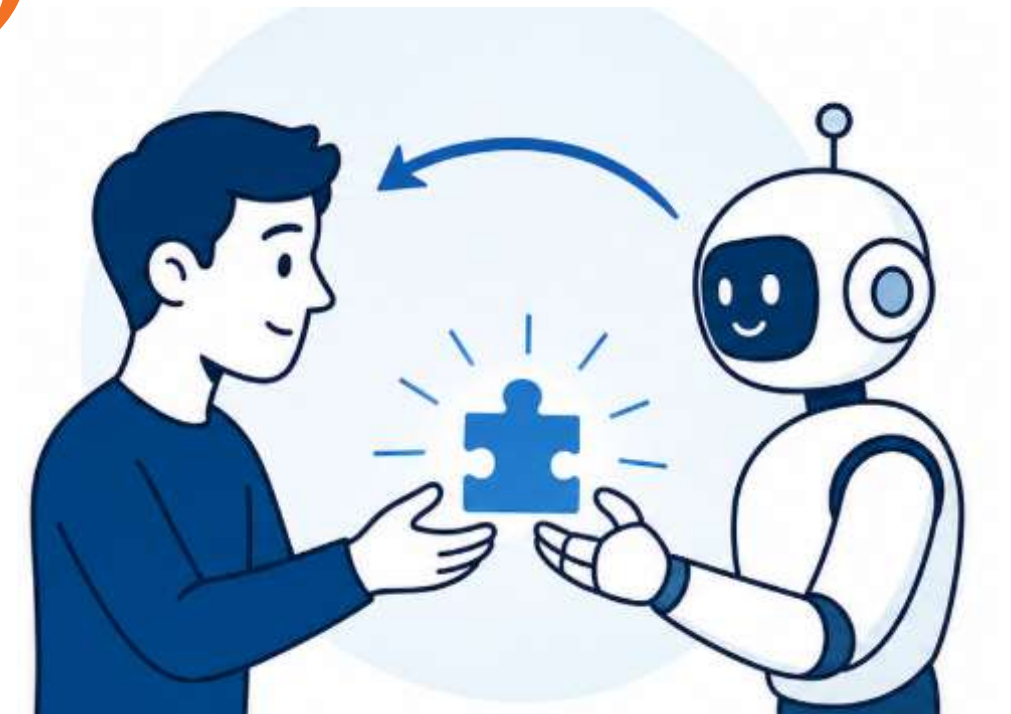


Vygotskian Internalization (1978)

Framework: Every higher psychological function appears **twice** in a learner's development. First, it appears on the social, **interpersonal level** through interaction with others, and later, it transforms into an individual, **intrapersonal cognitive process**. Learning is an active social dialogue that eventually moves inside the learner's mind.

Significance: If an AI simply rewrites a student's essay, no internalization occurs because the social dialogue is bypassed. The chatbot asks students to "Analyze First, Then Ask" protocol.

Results: By forcing this active interpersonal dialogue, students eventually internalize the AI's evaluative voice.



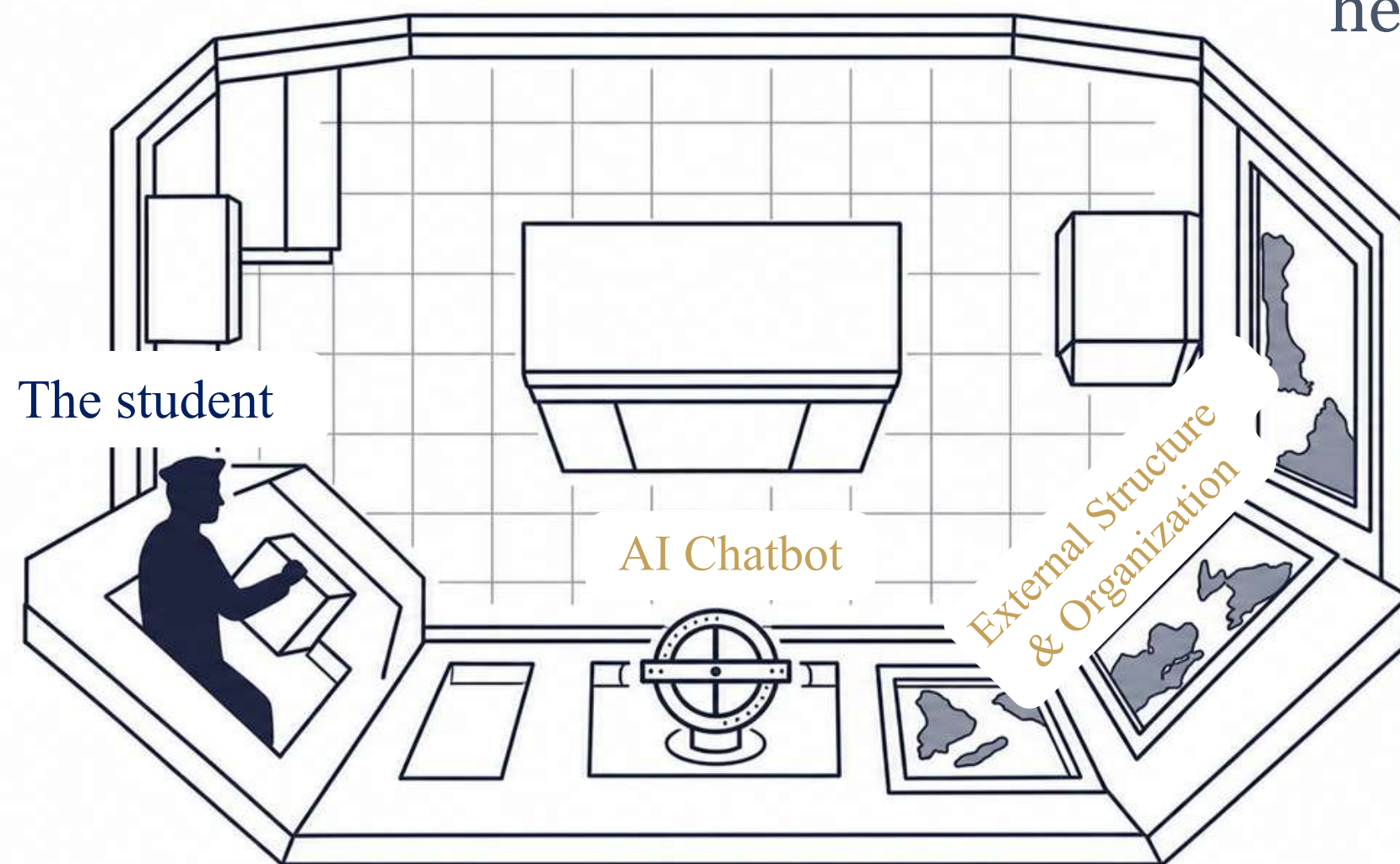
"Explain your thought process to me."



"I hear the AI's advice in my head now."

Edwin Hutchins's (1995) Distributed Cognition

Theory: Our cognition is **distributed across external tools, environments, and "mediating artifacts"** that help organize our behavior. As we repeatedly use these external structures, our internal mental architecture begins to mirror them

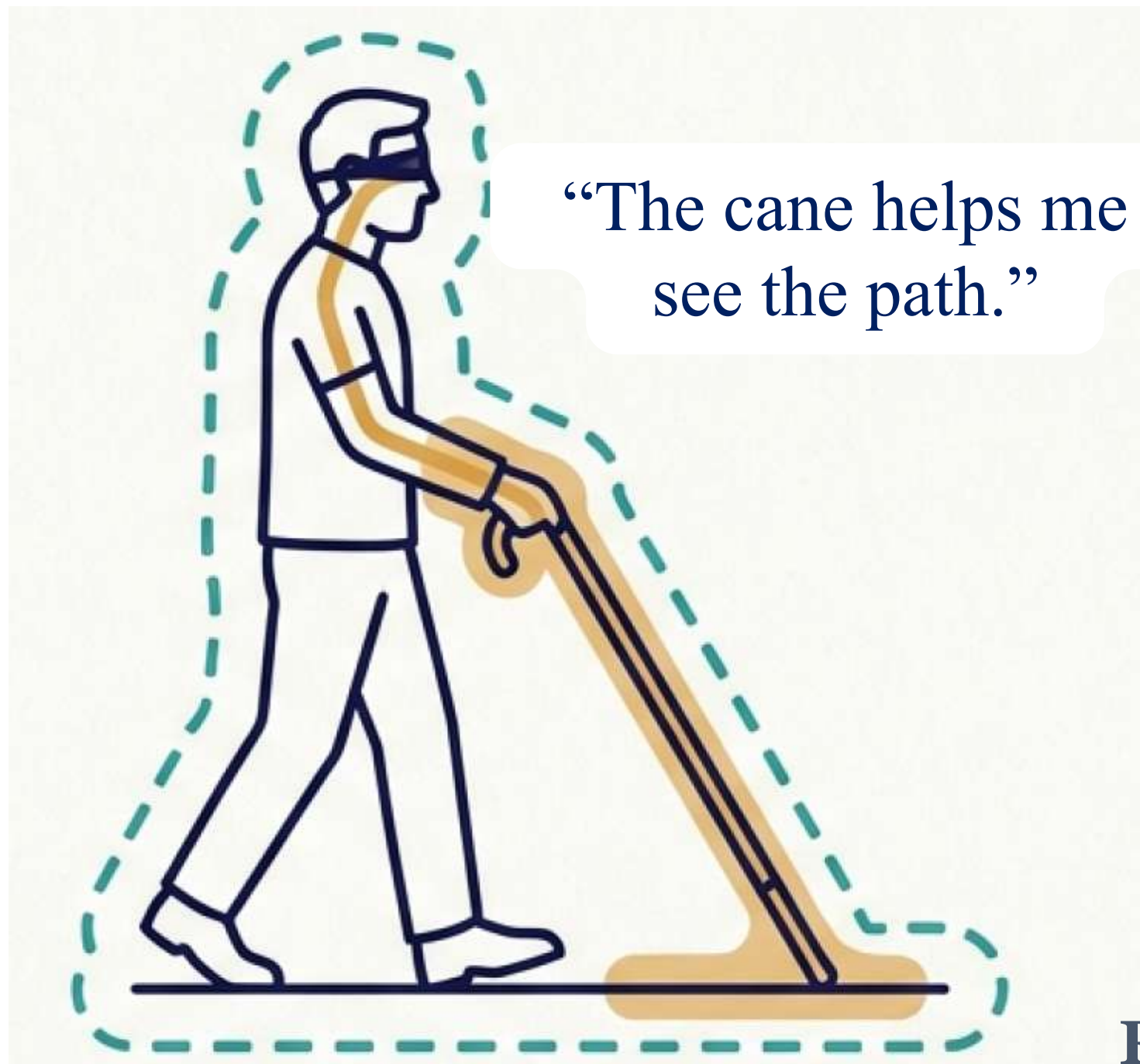


Significance: DSE students often struggle with disorganized paragraphs because they lack an internal mental framework. The chatbot is the external structure.

The AI provides this by organizing thoughts into clear tables and bolded structures.

Result: With repeated exposure, the student absorbs this external organization. The reliance on the AI tool naturally atrophies, and **logical thinking becomes an internal skill**.

Edwin Hutchins's (1995) Distributed Cognition



Theory: human intelligence does not stop at the edge of the skull. Instead, **our cognition is distributed across external tools, environments, and "mediating artifacts"** that help organize our behavior. As we repeatedly use these external structures, our internal mental architecture begins to mirror them

Significance: DSE students often struggle with disorganized paragraphs because they lack an internal mental framework. The chatbot is the external structure.

The AI provides this by organizing thoughts into clear tables and bolded structures.

Result: With repeated exposure, the student absorbs this external organization. The reliance on the AI tool naturally atrophies, and **logical thinking becomes an internal skill.**

Not Just Copy-Pasting (Lantolf & Thorne 2006)

What is copying? Lantolf and Thorne **redefine copying** (imitation). True imitation is an intentional, complex, and transformative developmental activity. It is a complex process of absorbing a structure to create something new.

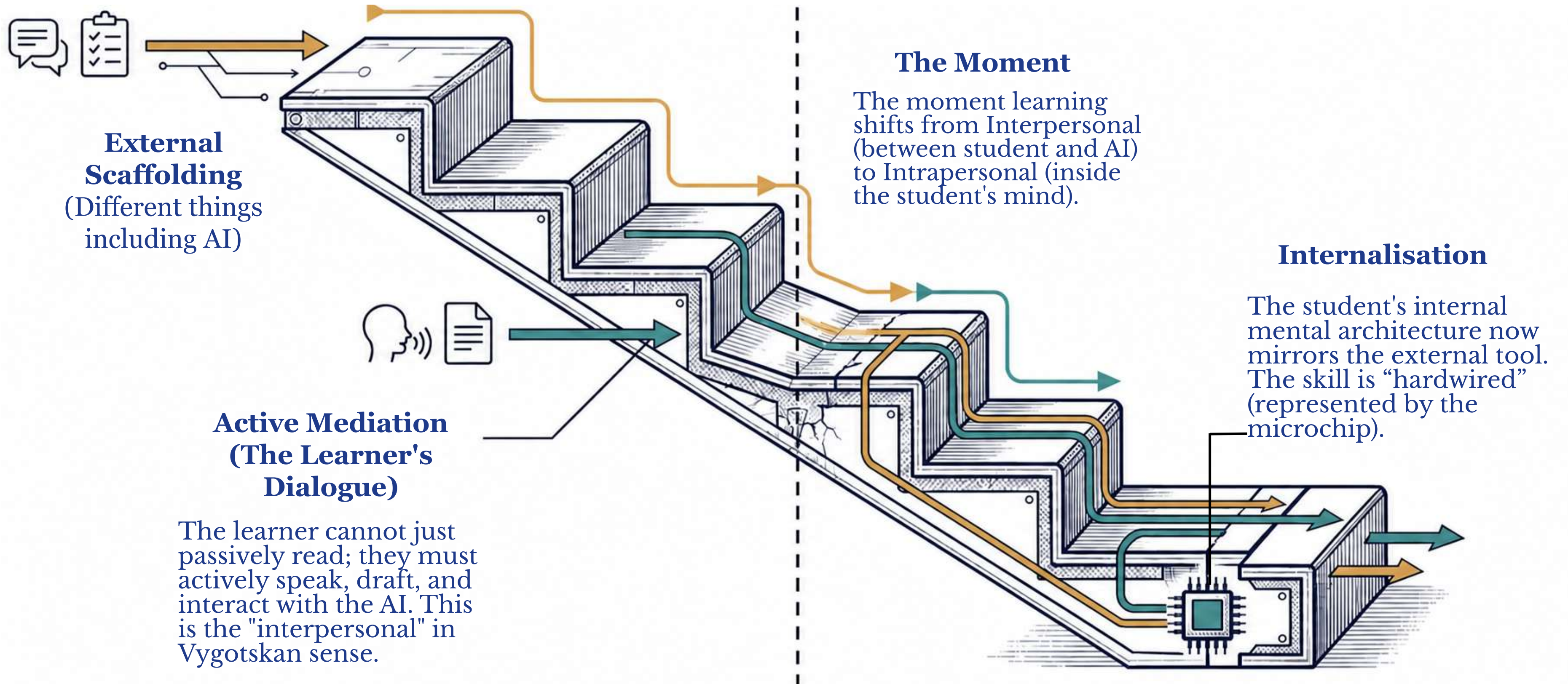


“I can adapt these pieces to fit my own ideas”

Significance: When AI generates a good sentence to correct logical problems, the immediate danger is that students will blindly copy-paste the text. To ensure imitation remains transformative, the chatbot does not provide all the information.

Result: Students must actively engage with the AI's generated text, modifying and completing it to fit their own arguments.

How AI Tools Lead To Internalisation



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