

Rethinking Assessment in the Age of AI

Shift 1: Product to Process

About This Shift

- **Why It Matters:** AI can generate polished final products. If we grade only the end result, students may bypass the effort of authentic learning.
- **Benefits for Teaching and Learning:** The real value is in how students arrive at their work.
- **Instructor Takeaway:** Prioritizing process builds metacognition, feedback literacy, and integrity by making thinking visible.

Assessment Example

Title of Assessment: Peer & AI Review + Reflection

Students draft a rough version of a paper, exchange structured peer review, and then solicit AI feedback. They compare the two sources of feedback, reflect on usefulness and alignment with goals/audience, and revise accordingly. Includes seven strategies to get more out of AI feedback. This assessment redesign model was heavily influenced by Anna Mills' [Getting the Most Out of AI Feedback](#) post and methods contained therein.

Instructor Guide

1. Understand

- Why this works: Students cannot outsource the documented steps (draft → peer review → AI review → comparison → reflection → revision). Learning is demonstrated through artifacts and reasoning, not just a polished product.
- What it builds:
 - Disciplinary knowledge (purpose, audience, evidence, reasoning)
 - Process skills (planning, drafting, revising)
 - AI literacy (evaluating feedback quality, spotting hallucinations/bias)

2. Prepare

- Materials: assignment sheet, rubric/checklist for feedback, reflection prompts, sample draft/exemplar, revision plan template.



- AI use policy: require an AI Use Statement (tool, prompts, settings, how feedback was used). Emphasize no fabricated citations; all claims must be verified with course-approved sources.
- Workflow: decide tools (LMS peer review, shared docs). Form pairs/trios; schedule checkpoints (draft due, peer review due, AI feedback due, revision + reflection due).
- Accessibility & equity: offer non-AI alternatives for students who opt out; ensure instructions are screen-reader friendly.

3. Implement

- Peer review:
 - Use a structured guide aligned to rubric (e.g., thesis clarity, evidence, organization, style, audience fit).
 - Require 2–3 marginal comments + an endnote organized by What works / What’s unclear / What to try next.
- AI review:
 - Students apply at least 3–4 of the Seven Strategies and paste the prompts + AI responses into an appendix.
 - Emphasize verification of claims; ignore or flag any hallucinated references.
- Compare & reflect:
 - Students analyze convergences/divergences between human and AI feedback and justify which advice they will implement.

4. Assess

- Process documentation: draft(s), peer feedback given/received, AI transcripts, revision plan.
- Quality of peer feedback: specific, criterion-aligned, constructive.
- Use of AI feedback: targeted prompts, critical evaluation, appropriate adoption/rejection.
- Revision quality: substantive changes aligned to goals/audience and rubric.
- Reflection depth: metacognitive insight; evidence-based judgments about feedback usefulness.
- Communication: clear, organized writing in all deliverables.

Practical Tips and Variations

- Scaffold the Experience: Collect questions or outlines before drafting; require a revision plan after feedback.
- Evidence Anchoring: Ask students to quote exact lines from peer/AI feedback and connect them to rubric criteria and course readings.
- AI Transparency: AI Use Statement must include tool, prompts, date/time, settings, and how advice was used.
- Adapt for Modalities: Online: post drafts + reflections to a forum; use checklists for peer review. Large classes: review in trios; rotate roles (author, reviewer, verifier).
- Variations by Context: Lab reports, policy memos, lit reviews, design critiques, lesson plans; multimodal: slides or posters with alt-text and speaker notes.

- Manage Pitfalls: Warn against fabricated citations and over-generalized AI advice; require verification; encourage discipline-specific prompting.
- Reflection Emphasis: Push beyond right/wrong. Ask: Which advice best serves the assignment goals and target audience—and why?

Student-Facing Instructions

Purpose

This assignment helps you develop your paper through multiple layers of feedback: from peers, from AI, and from your own reflection. The goal is not just a polished final draft, but to show how you engage in drafting, giving and receiving feedback, evaluating AI critically, and revising thoughtfully.

Your Task

Step 1: Draft

- Write a rough draft of your paper. It does not need to be perfect, but it should include your main thesis, supporting evidence, and a beginning structure.

Step 2: Peer Review

- Exchange drafts with your assigned partner(s).
- Use the [peer review guide](#) to give feedback:
 - Identify what works well, what is unclear, and what the writer should try next.
 - Provide at least 2–3 marginal comments and one summary endnote.

Step 3: AI Review

- Using the draft, request AI feedback by applying at least 3–4 of the Seven Strategies for AI Feedback provided in class. Ask AI to:
 - Summarize your argument → Check if it understood your thesis.
 - Identify unclear sections → See where a reader might be confused.
 - Suggest questions a critical reader might have → Anticipate weaknesses.
 - Comment on organization → Does the structure flow logically?
 - Evaluate tone/audience fit → Is the style academic, persuasive, accessible?
 - Identify strengths → Reinforce what's working well.
 - Point out unsupported claims → Where more evidence might be needed.
- Verify all claims before accepting or citing any references. Flag or ignore inaccurate advice.

Step 4: Compare & Reflect

- Compare your peer's feedback with the AI's feedback. Where do they overlap? Where do they differ?
- Decide which feedback is most useful and explain why.
- Write a short reflection (1–2 pages) that:
 - Explains which feedback you chose to implement.
 - Describes what you learned about your writing process.
 - Reflects on how AI was helpful, where it was limited, and how it compared to human feedback.

Step 5: Revise & Submit

- Revise your draft based on the feedback and your reflection.
- Submit the following as your final package:
 1. Your original draft
 2. Peer review feedback you gave and received
 3. AI prompts and responses (appendix)
 4. Your revision plan and reflection
 5. Your revised draft

AI Use Statement

Include a short statement describing:

- Which tool(s) you used
- What prompts you entered
- Date/time and settings (if applicable)
- How you used or rejected the AI's advice

Grading Criteria

Your work will be evaluated on:

- **Process documentation:** draft, feedback, AI transcript, revision plan
- **Quality of peer feedback:** specific, constructive, aligned to criteria
- **Use of AI feedback:** thoughtful prompts, critical evaluation, appropriate adoption/rejection
- **Revision quality:** substantive improvements aligned with goals and rubric
- **Reflection depth:** insights into your writing and feedback process
- **Communication:** clear and professional in all components

Tips for Success

- Be honest about your process. This is about learning, not perfection.
- Quote specific lines from peer and AI feedback in your reflection.
- Go beyond right/wrong, thinking about what best serves your assignment goals and intended audience.