

DISCUSSION PLANNER

About the discussion	
<i>Discussion prompt:</i> AI should be allowed in schools.	<i>Date:</i> August 1, 2025
<i>Intended Outcome(s) or Goal(s):</i> Encourage participants to consider different perspectives on the use of AI in education, reflect on its benefits and risks, and practice respectful discussion on a controversial issue.	

Overview of the discussion		
Phase	Description / Objectives	Estimated time
Introduction / Hook	Experiences sharing + opinion poll	10 min
Main exchange	Structured dialogue using <i>Think-pair-share</i> protocol	25 min
Conclusion / Debrief	Group reflection	10 min

Possible Perspectives	
Strongly agreeing	Strongly disagreeing
AI helps students learn more efficiently	AI leads to cheating and laziness
Students will find another way to cheat	AI will lead to other problems, as teachers can't always detect AI cheating
It can support struggling students with tools like summaries, rewording, and spelling help.	Students might lose the ability to think independently.
Students develop advanced digital skills essential for their future.	AI can generate errors or biased information that students may not notice

Anticipated Challenges	
Potential Challenge	Response or Strategy
Some arguing too emotionally or aggressively	Reinforce the discussion guidelines, refer to PLANS
Participants go off-topic	Refocus with the core question
Participants refuse to listen to different perspectives	Encourage participants to identify shared values or experiences to facilitate discussion

Flow of the discussion	
Introduction / Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask participants to share their experiences related to AI. Example questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the last time you used an AI tool? Can you share a time you used an AI tool that was helpful for you? Can you share a time you use an AI tool that did not help you? Present the discussion prompt and follow with a quick anonymous poll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI in schools is : mostly good; mostly bad; somewhere in between; unsure.
Main exchange	<p>Key question(s) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some of the major ways that AI can be used in education? What are some reasons for and against allowing AI in school?
	<p>Discussion Protocol: Think-Pair-Share</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Think: Participants think independently and write down 2 reasons for and 2 against AI in school. Pair: Participants pair up and exchange and compare their points. Share: After participants have shared with their partners, expand the sharing into a whole group discussion.
Conclusion / Debrief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterate the goal of the discussion: to consider different perspectives on the use of AI in education, reflect on its benefits and risks, and practice respectful dialogue on a controversial issue. Repeat the discussion prompt and follow with an anonymous poll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has your opinion changed since the beginning of the discussion? What is one concern you still have after this discussion? What is one benefit of AI in education that you hadn't thought about before?

Moderator Notes
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