TEACHING STUDENTS TO USE AI MORE EFFECTIVELY

By Erik Ofgang

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Rather than discourage generative AI use in students, Dr. Jennifer Parker has developed a tool for helping them critically assess what AI generates. Her FLUF test is a scoring system for critically evaluating the accuracy, applicability, and usefulness of AI outputs.

"The FLUF framework can be used to help you create better prompts because it can assist you in identifying the who, what, where, when, why, and how, and what goes into a good prompt," Parker says. It also provides a guide for evaluating the finished product and deciding whether you need to adjust your prompts further.

Utilizing AI In The Classroom

The FLUF test stands for format, language, usability, and fanfare. Parker, who developed the framework while working with educators at the University of Florida, explains that Format refers to the layout and length of a product created by ChatGPT or another AI tool. Language measures tone and phrasing. Usability refers to the credibility and consistency. Fanfare really refers to the audience the output is reaching. For example, is it appropriate for the setting and is it entertaining and does it incorporate anecdotes?

Each of these elements receives a plus or minus score, and the final total is then easily critically evaluated. The goal is to have a zero FLUF and a fluff-free final output, Parker says.

"You can use it on an image, you can use it on a text. You can use it to critique a video work," Parker says. "You're really looking for: Is the result your intended purpose? And if it's not, what do you need to do better with your prompts to speak to those elements of the FLUF test so that you really are getting the results that you intended."

For Parker, these are the kind of AI literate tools students need to develop and should be developing in K-12 and college. For her, the answer to the question of whether AI tools should be used by students is a resounding, "Yes."

"I think students should always use AI. I think that it's a tool that's here, just like the internet's here. I don't think we should hide from it," she says. "What I do think we should do is teach them how to use it effectively and thoughtfully, and we also need to get teachers to engage in using it to have them create authentic products."

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