HAWKES LEARNING

AI Literacy for College Students

Thinking Critically, Ethically, and Creatively with AI

Lesson Wrap-Up

AI literacy combines curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, and conscientiousness.

The Four C's (Curious, Critical, Creative, Conscientious)

- **Be Curious:** Seek to understand how AI works and what it can do.
- **Be Critical:** Question outputs before using them.
- **Be Creative:** Use AI to spark and develop ideas while maintaining your own creative voice.
- **Be Conscientious:** Act ethically and transparently.

Try It

Practice the Four C's

Choose one current assignment, project, or study task from this semester. For each of the Four C's, write one specific action you could take when using AI:

- **Curious:** Ask AI a question that helps you understand a concept more deeply.
- **Critical:** Identify one way you would check or verify an AI response.
- **Creative:** Describe how you would use AI to expand or improve your ideas, not generate the final answer.
- **Conscientious:** Explain how you would use or disclose AI responsibly for that assignment.

Then, write one sentence explaining which C will be most challenging for you and why.

Glossary: AI Literacy

Academic integrity: acting honestly and responsibly in your academic work, including proper citation and avoiding plagiarism or misrepresentation

AI literacy: the ability to understand, use, and think critically about AI technologies and their impacts

Artificial general intelligence (AGI): a hypothetical form of AI that would be able to learn, reason, and apply knowledge across many domains at a level similar to human intelligence; AGI does not currently exist

Artificial intelligence (AI): computer systems or algorithms that perform tasks associated with human intelligence by learning patterns from data to generate outputs—such as text, images, or predictions—without actually understanding meaning in the way humans do

Artificial narrow intelligence (ANI): (also, *narrow AI* or *weak AI*) AI systems designed to perform specific tasks within limited domains without humanlike understanding or the ability to apply knowledge broadly across unrelated situations

Artificial superintelligence (ASI): a hypothetical form of AI that would surpass human intellectual abilities across a wide range of tasks; ASI does not currently exist

Bias: a tendency to favor certain viewpoints, assumptions, or outcomes in ways that can affect judgment and lead to unfair or inaccurate results

Black box problem: the challenge of determining how an AI system generated an output, which can make it difficult to evaluate accuracy, identify errors, or explain decisions

Want some practice with the vocabulary? Check out this Hawkes Verified Quizlet set!

CRAAP test: a framework for evaluating the quality and credibility of sources by examining their currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose

Deep learning: a type of machine learning that uses layered computational models and large amounts of data to identify complex patterns in information such as language, images, and audio

Fact-checking / triangulation: confirming claims by comparing at least two independent and reliable sources to verify accuracy

Four C's of AI literacy: curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, and conscientiousness; the guiding mindset for responsible AI use

Generative AI: a type of AI that generates new content—such as text, images, audio, video, or code—based on patterns learned from existing data

Hallucination (AI): an AI-generated response that appears credible but contains false, fabricated, or misleading information

Information literacy: the ability to evaluate sources, verify facts, and assess the trustworthiness of information, including AI-generated content

Machine learning: a type of AI that enables computer systems to learn patterns from data and improve their performance on tasks without being explicitly programmed for every situation

Predictive AI: a type of AI that analyzes existing data to estimate likely outcomes, identify trends, or support decision-making

Prompting: the process of communicating with an AI system by providing instructions and context that influence the quality, relevance, and usefulness of its outputs

Responsible AI use: using AI to support your own thinking and learning, while completing the work and analysis yourself

Rule-based AI: AI systems that follow predefined rules created by humans to complete tasks or make decisions without learning or adapting from data

SIFT method: a digital literacy framework for evaluating online information by stopping to assess content, investigating the source, finding better coverage, and tracing claims to their original context

Verification: the process of checking whether information, outputs, or claims are accurate, reliable, and supported by evidence before using them in decisions or work