

Certifying Empathy

Challenge: Implement Summative Evaluation Plans

Summary:

Origin: Ask Pete (Capstone Project). This artifact is the Summative Evaluation Strategy Brief. This strategy brief defines the Summative Evaluation plan for the platform's most critical component: the human mentor. It establishes the 'Daydream Certification,' a mandatory 'Gatekeeper' module that assesses a mentor's Technological, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge (TPACK). This evaluation ensures that every human 'More Knowledgeable Other' possesses the empathy and skill required to maintain psychological safety before they are allowed to interact with learners.

Reflection:

I addressed the challenge to Implement Summative Evaluation Plans by identifying a critical risk: an untrained mentor, though well-intentioned, could destroy the 'Psychological Safety' created by the AI. Standard assessments often focus on content knowledge, but in a Vygotskian scaffolding model, the affective competence of the mentor is paramount. Therefore, I designed the 'Daydream Certification' as a rigorous summative assessment not for the learner, but for the teacher?validating their readiness to serve as a 'More Knowledgeable Other.'I grounded this assessment in the TPACK Framework (Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge). The certification module functions as a 'Gatekeeper' simulation where prospective mentors must navigate narrative scenarios involving at-risk learners. They are evaluated on their ability to distinguish between judgmental 'Feedback' and supportive, Socratic 'Feed-Forward.' This 'dogfooding' approach?using the platform's own narrative engine to assess its users?ensures that the evaluation is ecologically valid, measuring the mentor's actual capacity for empathy and guidance in a simulated environment.The 'grade' for this summative evaluation is binary and structural: the 'Mentor Role Unlock.' Only upon successfully demonstrating the required affective and pedagogical skills does the system toggle the is_certified flag in the database, technically enabling the user to receive student connections. This architecture transforms summative evaluation from a post-hoc report into a proactive quality assurance mechanism, ensuring that the human element of the learning loop is as reliable and safe as the code itself.

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