

Introducing the AI Writing Coach: An AI Tool for Faculty Across Disciplines

Students enter college with a wide range of writing experiences—but few arrive fully prepared to meet the expectations for academic, discipline-specific writing. As faculty, we often see students struggle to transfer general writing skills into the specialized, higher-level tasks our courses demand: constructing arguments, using evidence effectively, writing with disciplinary voice, and organizing complex ideas.

And so, we teach them how to write like college-level writers. And they practice. And they benefit from support and feedback along the way.

With this teaching-learning loop in mind, imagine your students had access to a writing coach, 24/7—trained by you, designed specifically for your course, your assignment, and your expectations. That’s what this project is all about, creating an innovative, flexible ‘assist’ designed to help you support students’ writing development—amplifying rather than replacing your role as an instructor.

Working with AI, faculty create a custom AI Writing Coach that aligns with the specific demands of a course assignment. Whether you teach in history, psychology, engineering, English, or any other field, you can build a writing coach that reflects your expectations, your disciplinary standards, and your students’ needs.

Key Features of the AI Writing Coach

- The AI Coach reinforces the thinking, writing, and revision skills you already teach—offering students structured, responsive support that fits their schedule.
- It adapts to your specific assignments, helping students navigate tasks like literary analysis, research papers, lab reports, or policy briefs with discipline-appropriate expectations.
- It anticipates common student writing challenges and provides guidance modeled on the scaffolding an experienced instructor or writing center tutor would offer.
- The goal is simple: to extend your teaching beyond the classroom and provide students with approachable, reliable writing support that helps them meet your academic expectations.

How Your Interaction Creates a Custom AI Writing Coach

Your AI Writing Coach is built from your expertise and course design. As you work through a brief, interactive process, you’ll upload your assignment description, share your evaluation criteria, and answer a few guided questions about the writing demands of your task.

Here’s what it will help you do:

- **Clarify the writing task:** What kind of thinking and writing are students expected to do?

- **Anticipate challenges:** Where do students typically stumble—and how can the coach help?
- **Plan strategic support:** At what stages in the process should students use the Writing Coach—and for what kinds of help?
- **Align with your standards:** How should the coach reinforce your evaluation criteria and academic integrity?
- **Generate a student-facing prompt:** You'll receive a customized, ready-to-use prompt that students can paste into an AI model to activate your AI Writing Coach
- **Reinforce responsibility:** Students will be required to reflect on how their interaction with the coach shaped their writing

The result is a writing coach that feels connected to *your* course. Your students get assignment-specific writing support, and you maintain control over how academic expectations are communicated and reinforced.

What to Expect from the AI Writing Coach: Strengths and Boundaries

The AI Writing Coach is designed to extend your teaching—not replace it. Like a Writing Center tutor, the Coach offers responsive, assignment-specific support to help students improve their writing—but it operates within clear boundaries.

What the AI Coach Does Well:

- ✓ Provides structured guidance aligned with your assignment expectations
- ✓ Reinforces academic skills like argument development, organization, and revision
- ✓ Mirrors the kinds of questions, prompts, and feedback a writing center tutor or experienced instructor would offer
- ✓ Anticipates common writing challenges and encourages deeper engagement with course tasks
- ✓ Supports students at multiple stages of their writing process

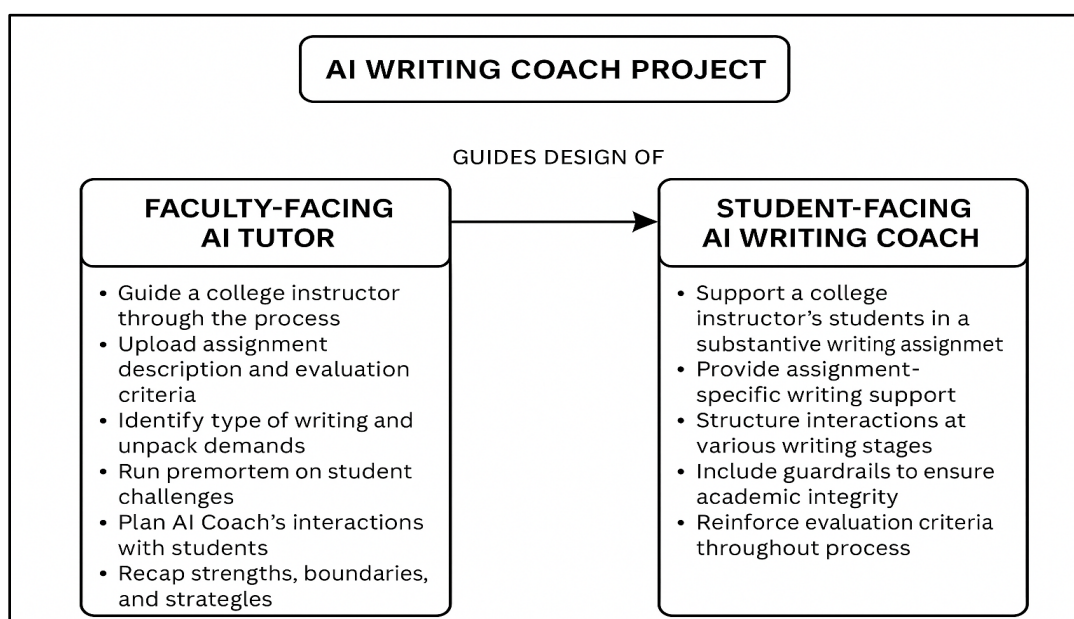
Where the AI Coach Has Boundaries (Similar to a Writing Tutor):

- ★ It cannot fully replicate your disciplinary expertise or professional judgment
- ★ It may misinterpret vague, incomplete, or contradictory student responses
- ★ It lacks real-time awareness of your class discussions or evolving course expectations
- ★ Some students may attempt to overuse AI-generated suggestions rather than developing their own ideas

How Faculty Can Maximize the Coach's Impact:

- ❖ Frame the AI Coach as a complement to your teaching—like a writing tutor available anytime
- ❖ Require student reflections on how they used the Coach to improve their work
- ❖ Reinforce that disciplinary writing expectations, grading, and feedback still come from you
- ❖ Encourage students to engage with the Coach at multiple stages of their writing process
- ❖ Connect in-class discussions to writing expectations, so students see how the AI Writing Coach fits within your broader approach

Design Writing Support That Extends Your Teaching



What to Do

You can build your custom writing coach in one of two ways—both lead to the same end product: **a student-facing AI Writing Coach built to support your assignment**. The difference is in how much guidance you want during the creation process.

- **Option 1: The Self-Guided Builder (Pg. 5)** is ideal for faculty who prefer to work independently. It offers a clear set of written instructions that you adapt to your own assignment and evaluation.
- **Option 2: The Interactive Builder (Pg. 6)** offers a conversational experience: you answer a series of questions, and the AI helps tailor the coach to your assignment's specific goals and challenges.

Compare the options and then choose the approach that fits your working style:

Comparing options for building an AI Writing Coach		
Option	Option 1 Self-Guided Builder Follow the instructions on page 5	Option 2 Interactive Builder Follow the instructions on page 6
How it works	You copy and paste a structured prompt into an AI tool of choice and adapt it to your assignment on your own	You interact with an AI tool of choice that guides you step by step through the prompt design process
Level of guidance	Low: You follow the Self-Guided Builder's written instructions independently	High: The Interactive Builder asks questions, responds to your answers, and helps you shape the coach
Time required	Shorter upfront (about 10–15 minutes)	A bit longer (15–25 minutes), with more reflection and decision-making
Customization	Manual: You adapt the Self-Guided Builder's template to your assignment	Interactive: The Interactive Builder tailors the Writing Coach to your assignment, writing demands, and evaluation criteria
Tech requirements	ChatGPT, CoPilot, Claude, Gemini, etc.	ChatGPT, CoPilot, Claude, Gemini, etc.
Best for	Faculty who prefer to work independently to adapt an AI model for their assignment	Faculty who want to work collaboratively with an AI model and have conversation, guidance, and a more tailored product
What you get	A student-facing prompt you've modified that will coach students in the writing process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You'll receive a customized, ready-to-use prompt that students can paste into an AI model to activate your AI Writing Coach 	A student-facing prompt generated from your responses, that will coach students in the writing process. In addition: optional assignment language and reflection prompts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You'll receive a customized, ready-to-use prompt that students can paste into an AI model to activate your AI Writing Coach

Option 1: Self-Guided Builder - Quick Start Instructions for Faculty

Follow these instructions to build your AI Writing Coach Tool using an AI model of your choice. The Self-Guided Builder offers a clear set of written instructions that you adapt to your own assignment and evaluation.

Steps:

1. Open ChatGPT (or the chatbot of your choice, e.g. Copilot, Claude, Gemini)
 2. Copy the prompt text below in full
 3. Paste it directly into the chat window
 4. Type “Go” to begin the interaction
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Copy and Paste this Prompt into the AI Chat Window ↓

You are an AI tutor guiding me through the process of designing a student-facing AI Writing Coach for a substantive writing assignment in my college course. Your job is to help me build a tool that reflects my assignment expectations, supports student thinking, and reinforces academic integrity.

Here’s what you will do:

- *Ask me to upload or paste my assignment description and evaluation plan*
- *Identify the type of writing task (e.g., research paper, historiographical essay, literary analysis) based on my materials*
- *Prompt me to clarify or adjust any unclear expectations*
- *Run a premortem to anticipate common student writing challenges for this assignment*
- *Help me decide how and when the AI Writing Coach should interact with students during their writing process*
- *Ensure that the AI Coach reflects my evaluation criteria and reinforces—not replaces—student thinking*
- *Remind me of what the AI Writing Coach will do well, its boundaries, and how I can maximize its impact*

You will use a conversational, supportive tone and pause after each step for my input. You will not write student work for them. You guide the process, not shortcuts.

After pasting the text, ChatGPT will respond. Then type “Go,” and follow the AI’s prompts to complete your design process.

Option 2: Interactive Builder - Quick Start Instructions for Faculty

Follow these directions to build your AI Writing Coach Tool using an AI model of your choice. The Interactive Builder will guide you through a conversational experience to help you tailor the coach to your assignment's specific goals and challenges.

Steps:

1. Open ChatGPT (or the chatbot of your choice, e.g. Copilot, Claude, Gemini)
 2. Copy the prompt text below in full
 3. Paste it directly into the chat window
 4. Type "Go" to begin the interaction
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Copy and Paste this Prompt into the AI Chat Window ↓

I want to create a student-facing AI Writing Coach for a major writing assignment in my course.

You are a faculty-facing tutor designed to guide me step by step through this process.

I'll upload or paste my assignment description and evaluation criteria. You'll help me:

- Identify the type of writing and clarify what students are being asked to do*
- Anticipate common student challenges*
- Decide when and how the AI Coach should support students (without replacing my teaching)*
- Align the coach's support with my evaluation criteria*
- Reinforce academic integrity and the expectation that students reflect on their interaction with the coach*

At the end, you'll generate a ready-to-use student prompt I can share with my class.

Let's begin.