Digital Thinking Tools in Action

Participant Information Sheet

Survey on Generative AI for Argumentation

This survey has been created by the Digital Thinking Tools in Action project which is part of the Open University's Open Societal Challenges programme. The Digital Thinking Tools project started in November 2024 and will run until December 2026. A similar survey is run by our collaborators at Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU). The findings of the surveys will be used to inform future study materials at the Open University and HKMU.

This research project has been reviewed by, and received a favourable opinion, from The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee – HREC reference number: 2025-0797-2.

Contact details

For any project queries and any withdrawals, please contact the project Principal Investigator (PI) Paul Piwek. Email: paul.piwek at open.ac.uk or telephone at 01908 85 89 14.

If you have any concerns about the way the research project is being conducted, you can contact the alternative independent and impartial contact for this study: Dr Amel Bennaceur (Director of Research, School of Computing and Communications), Email: amel.bennaceur at open.ac.uk, Telephone: 01908 85 85 75.

Invitation

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

You have been invited to take part as a Stage 1 student at the Open University. The results of this study will be used to inform the design of future Stage 1 study materials. Choosing to either take part or not take part in the project will have no impact on your marks, assessments or future studies.

As a compensation for your time spend on this survey, participants who complete the survey will be presented with a £10 National Book Token.

The questionnaire is divided into three major sections and will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. You should respond to the questions with reference to your experiences. Please complete each page of the survey entirely before you move to the next page. You will **not** be able to go back to previous pages.

Consent form: Please read the information on the consent form and complete the confirmation at the bottom of the form.

Section A: In this section, you will be asked to enter contact details and your language background.

Section B: Section B has three parts. In Parts 1 and 2 you will be asked questions about your understanding and knowledge of argumentation. Take the necessary time for each question. Please do not make use of external resources. Our aim is to learn about **your** understanding of the concept of argumentation. Part 3 focuses on your beliefs about the importance of argumentation and your self-evaluation of your skills.

The Open University

Section C: Section C includes questions about your beliefs and practices concerning the use of generative AI in argument construction.

What will I be asked to do if I agree to take part?

You are asked to complete the survey, which should take you no more than one hour.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to provide evidence of your consent.

The survey will allow you to reflect on your own practice and beliefs about the use of Generative AI.

How will the data I provide be used?

Your data will be securely collected using the University's Jisc Online survey account and subsequently stored on the University's password protected OneDrive system. Once the data from this survey has been analysed, your name and email will be removed from the data set. The records of this study will be kept strictly confidential. Information obtained will be used solely for research purposes. Identifiable information will not be included in any written reports of the study. We may use short quotes from your survey answers in the written dissemination of the research but will ensure that in those cases no identifiable information is included. The anonymised data set will be retained for the duration of the project. Only Meta data (e.g. number of responses to the

survey, etc.), not the actual data, will made available in perpetuity on the Open University's Open Research Data Online (ORDO) system.

Your right to withdraw from the project

You have the right to withdraw from the project at any time during your participation. If you decide to withdraw whilst you are completing the survey, simply leave the online survey by closing the tab on your browser. Whether you decide to withdraw during or after the survey, please contact the project PI (see contact details) to let them know you withdrew so they can immediately remove your data from the data set.

You have the right to ask for your data to be removed after your participation in the project. The data will be anonymised by 1 August 2025. If you would like your data to be removed, contact the PI before then. After 1 August 2025 all data will be anonymised and so your data will no longer be identifiable.

How do I agree to take part?

You 'opt in' for the project by visiting the online survey link and completing the online consent form which will be available at the start of the survey.

Thank you

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet.

Data protection

- The Open University is the Data Controller for the personal data that you provide.

- The lawful reason for processing your data will be that conducting academic research is part of The Open University's public task. The consent we request from you relates to ethical considerations.

- You have a number of rights as a data subject:

  - To request a copy of the personal data we have about you.
  - To rectify any personal data which is inaccurate or incomplete.
  - restrict the processing of your data.
  - To receive a copy of your data in an easily transferrable format (if relevant).
  - To erase your data.
  - To object to us processing your data.

If you are concerned about the way we have processed your personal information, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Please visit the Please visit the ICO's website for further details.