

Creating a Student Praxis for Learning with AI

Inspire curiosity, pride, agency, critical thought

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English, Miss Hall's

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This presentation was for Loomis Chaffee's symposium: New Paths Forward: AI, Humanity, and the Next Era of Education. 6/3/2025.

Part one offers teachers a series of writing prompts to use with students to provoke thoughts on learning.

Part two introduces learning theory from hooks, Papert, and Freire.

Part three asks students to integrate AI with a theory of learning.

I end with two proposals:
Formation of a lexicon for denoting Human Authentic (HA) work; and, Creation of an AI Orientation program for all students across disciplines.

PRAXIS

Praxis is the process by which a theory, lesson, or skill is enacted, embodied, realized, applied, or put into practice. "Praxis" may also refer to the act of engaging, applying, exercising, realizing, or practising ideas.

([Wikipedia](#))

A series of prompts to provoke thought on and build a personal philosophy of learning.

1. Describe a meaningful learning experience ***outside of school.***

Be specific. Include as many details as possible to help sharpen this moment.

A series of prompts to provoke thought on and build a personal philosophy of learning.

2. Describe a meaningful learning experience ***with someone other than a teacher or coach.***

Be specific. Include as many details as possible to help sharpen this moment.

A series of prompts to provoke thought on and build a personal philosophy of learning.

3. Describe a meaningful learning experience ***in an academic setting.***

Be specific. Include as many details as possible to help sharpen this moment.

A series of prompts to provoke thought on and build a personal philosophy of learning.

4. Describe a meaningful learning experience ***with a teacher or coach.***

Be specific. Include as many details as possible to help sharpen this moment.

DISCUSS with your neighbor.

Choose one or more of your responses and discuss.

What are the fundamental elements of your valuable learning experiences?

Do you have elements in common with your partner/group?

Did something unusual or unexpected emerge from your writing, and your discussion?

SHARE with the group

Scribe and whiteboard.

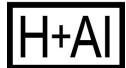
What are some of our findings?

THEORY: Paolo Freire

Paulo Freire critiques what he calls the "banking concept of education," where knowledge is deposited from teacher to student, treating students as passive recipients. He argues this method mirrors oppressive societal structures by hindering students' ability to think critically and transform their reality. Instead, Freire advocates for "problem-posing education," a dialogical approach where teachers and students collaboratively analyze and challenge the world around them, fostering conscientizacao (critical consciousness) and genuine liberation.

"Liberating education consists in acts of cognition, not transferrals of information."

Paolo Freire



AI synopsis using NotebookLM.

THEORY: bell hooks

In bell hooks' book, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*, hooks explores how teaching can be a liberatory practice that challenges systems of domination like racism, sexism, and class exploitation. hooks emphasizes the importance of critical pedagogy, influenced by Paulo Freire, which encourages students to become active participants in their education and to link theory with practice to transform social reality.

“...teaching is an act of resistance countering the overwhelming boredom, uninterest, and apathy...”

bell hooks



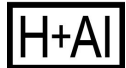
AI synopsis using NotebookLM

THEORY: Seymour Papert

"Situating Constructionism" explores the concept of constructionism as a theory of learning. It goes beyond simple definitions like "learning-by-making" to emphasize its multidimensional nature, including the idea that learning is enhanced when individuals are actively engaged in constructing a public entity. The authors propose a research program focused on this theory, contrasting it with traditional instructionist methods and suggesting that fostering diverse learning styles is crucial for a deeper understanding.

"... in teaching the computer how to think, children embark on an exploration about how they themselves think."

Seymour Papert



Draft your personal learning theory, your praxis.

Rough draft! Work in progress!

Refer to your own writing, our white board content, and the theory samples from Freire, hooks, and Papert.

How does AI fit in?

AI can produce the end product: the essay, the analysis.

How does AI fit into your learning praxis?

- As a tool?
- As a teacher?
- As a collaborator?
- As a cheat when you're overwhelmed, inundated?

Modeling a Constructive Approach to AI as Learning Partner

POSSIBLE TRAJECTORIES

What would you like your students to do with AI?

1. Students write their own learning praxis *before* reading theorists
2. Students write their own learning praxis *after* reading theorists
3. Students write their own learning praxis *before* reading AI synopses
4. Input key emblematic chapters and links; create a simulation with thinners; have a discussion/dialogue with three theoreticians through NotebookLM, Gemini, or other.
5. Suggestions?

Some Proposals

Some thoughts on critical thinking, learning praxis,
and Gen AI.

Denoting *Proof of Humanity*

Increasingly, writers and creators will want to denote that they did **NOT** have assistance from Gen AI.

Should we have a lexicon or icons that signify Proof of Humanity?

- The writer wants to be assessed as such and not compared to a cohort that has collaborated with Gen AI, which skews the assessment criteria.
- AI risks a vacuous feedback loop, diluting feedback and praise and authentic engagement.
- The writer wants credit and recognition for their own or their group's work.
- The writer wants feedback in order to improve their work and their critical thinking skills.
- Pride in authorship

PROPOSAL #1:

Icons for denoting AI Collab, and not!

Similar to Creative Commons, “The nonprofit behind the licenses and tools the world uses to share”



Human Authentic



Human+AI



PROPOSAL #2:

Schools adopt AI Orientation curriculum

Schools already have orientation programs; develop and include AI Orientation program: *Introduction to Learning with AI: Building Your Own Learning Praxis*.

- One or several days
- Schoolwide, across disciplines
- Bespoke for different schools, departments and fields
- Underlying philosophy: discovering and creating student agency, pride, curiosity, and critical thought.

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This is just a start;
I'd love feedback.



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Embrace the discomfort of not knowing

Failures, false starts, pain, unease, patience