

AI and Student Writing Revisions – Explaining Why Something is Wrong

Why?	
This lesson uses AI technology to offer a novel approach to teaching writing, providing students with immediate, personalized feedback on their drafts, which can enhance their understanding of writing mechanics and encourage self-directed learning. It builds critical thinking and revision skills by having students analyze AI-generated feedback and decide how to apply it to improve their writing, rather than relying on prescriptive corrections. Moreover, integrating AI into the classroom prepares students for the future by familiarizing them with emerging technologies and their applications in education and beyond.	
Materials Needed	Time needed
Student access to generative AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT	Approximately 30 - 60 minutes, with the possible use of future class periods
Objectives	
Students will be able to identify and explain stylistic, organizational, and cohesion errors in their writing. Students will be able to utilize AI feedback to analyze their draft paragraphs or essays critically. Students will be able to revise their writing for improved style, organization, and cohesion without relying on AI for specific text revisions. Students will be able to reflect on the revision process and articulate how AI suggestions contributed to their final draft.	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Cohesion: The flow of sentences and paragraphs from one to another, which makes the text understandable and logical. Organization: The structure of a piece of writing, including the order of ideas and how they are developed. Style: The unique way a writer uses words and constructs sentences to convey meaning. Revision: The process of reviewing, analyzing, and amending a piece of writing to improve it. AI Feedback: Suggestions or critiques generated by an artificial intelligence system, aimed at improving the quality of writing.	
Lesson	
This lesson is designed to be used when students have produced a draft of a writing piece, and are looking to get feedback on it to improve their writing.	

Introduction and Objectives:

Briefly introduce the lesson's goals and the role of AI in the editing process.

Preparation:

Instruct students to review their drafts to ensure no personal information is included before submission to the AI. (Examples of personal information include names, locations, dates, references to personal events, and sensitive personal information, such as health-related information, racial and ethnic origins, etc.)

Modeling the Process:

Demonstrate how to paste a sample text into the chatbot interface.

Show how to interpret the AI's feedback, focusing on understanding the explanations rather than looking for specific text revisions.

Share a prompt that students can enter into the chatbot.

Example:

"I have written a draft of an essay [or paragraph] and I am currently in the revision process. I am looking to improve the style, organization, and cohesion of my ideas to make my writing more effective and engaging. Could you please analyze my text and provide feedback on those areas? Explain the issues and any revisions you suggest."

[More specific suggestions are at the end of this lesson plan.]

Student Activity

Students paste their drafts into the chatbot and review the feedback.

They make notes on suggested changes, ensuring they understand the rationale behind each suggestion.

Revision [This part and the next part could be completed in a future class period]

Students revise their drafts based on the AI's feedback, focusing on style, organization, and cohesion.

Reflection

Students write a brief reflection on how the AI's suggestions helped improve their draft and what they learned about their writing style.

Discussion Questions

How did the AI's feedback help you identify areas for improvement in your writing?
Were there any suggestions from the AI that you disagreed with? Why?
What should you do when you disagree with an AI suggestion? What should you do when you disagree with a classmate's suggestion, or a teacher's suggestion?
How can understanding the reasons behind writing errors improve your writing skills?
In what ways did this process change how you think about revision and editing?

Supplemental Activity Ideas

Peer Review: Pair up students to discuss the changes they made based on the AI's feedback and further refine their drafts. Compare AI suggestions with peer suggestions.

Writing Workshop: Host a session where students share their before-and-after drafts and discuss the revision process.

Research Project: Assign a project where students compare the effectiveness of AI feedback to traditional peer review or teacher feedback.

Sources to Learn More

A 2023 study on the use of generative AI in writing feedback:

<https://educationaltechnologyjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41239-023-00425-2>

A college's explanation of how generative AI can work in collaboration with writing education: <https://cee.ucdavis.edu/ai-student-writing>

Additional Prompt Suggestions

The following prompt information can be shared with students as they seek feedback on their writing pieces from ChatGPT or a similar generative AI chatbot.

I have written a draft of an essay [or paragraph] and I am currently in the revision process. I am looking to improve the style, organization, and cohesion of my ideas to make my writing more effective and engaging. Could you please analyze my text and provide feedback on those areas? Explain the issues and any revisions you suggest.

Style: Are there any sentences or phrases that seem awkward or unclear? Could you suggest general strategies to make my writing more concise and impactful without altering my unique voice?

Organization: Does the structure of my essay (or paragraph) support the overall flow of ideas? Are there sections that might benefit from reordering or further development to enhance clarity and coherence?

Cohesion: How well do my ideas transition from one to another? Are there places where the connection between sentences or paragraphs could be strengthened to better guide the reader through my argument or narrative?

Please provide explanations for your suggestions, focusing on why certain elements might need improvement and offering strategies I could use to enhance my writing. I'm not looking for specific text revisions but rather insights and advice I can apply to revise my work independently."