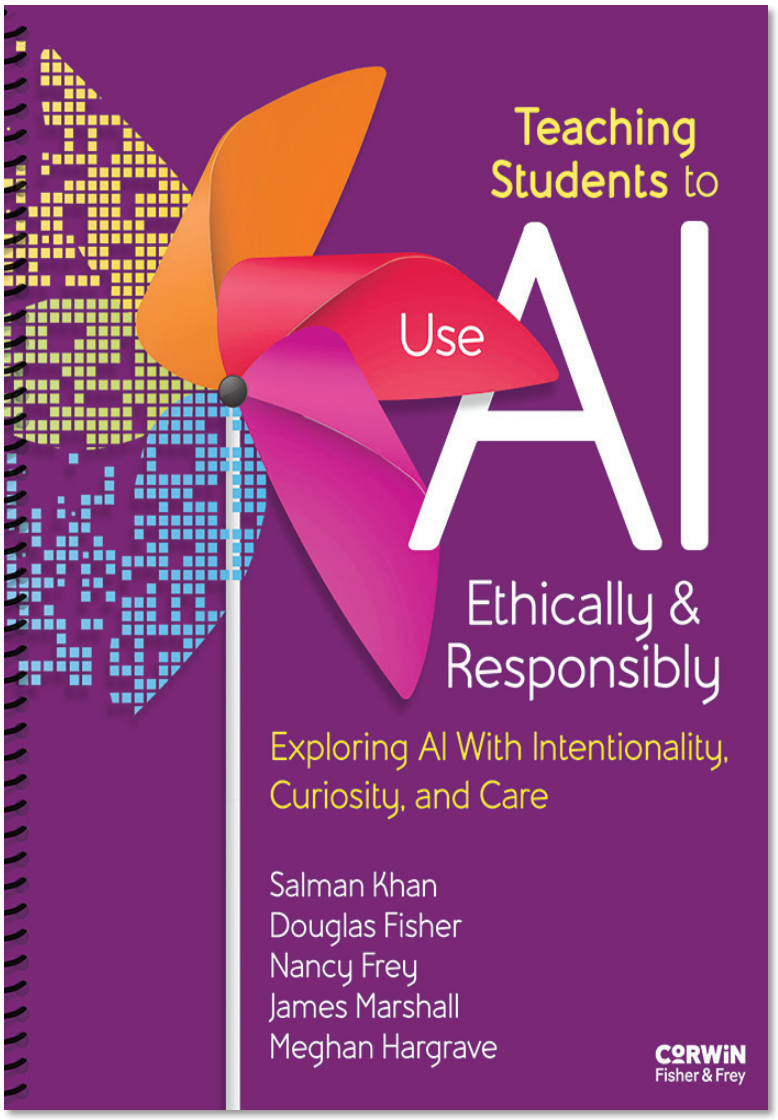

Thank you

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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from Teaching Students to Use AI Ethically & Responsibly.

LEARN MORE about this title!

CORWIN

Growth Quest

WHAT IS IT?

In a Growth Quest, students use the power of AI to analyze their work, gain additional perspectives, and support revision. A Growth Quest provides the opportunity to "revise and rise" through feedback and revision loops that lead to continuous, iterative improvement of their work.

WHY IT MATTERS

AI is a learning partner in a Growth Quest. Rather than a shortcut, AI offers a helpful voice that offers insight, while directly supporting reflection and revision. Students use AI to receive feedback and improve their work, while building stronger thinking habits in the process. Growth Quests help students receive more growth-supporting feedback that is both meaningful and personalized. AI can help teachers meet the demands of providing feedback that is just-in-time, just-for-them, given when and where it can do the most good (Brookhart, 2017). Great learning doesn't happen all at once but rather it grows through clear goals, support, and a willingness to revise.

HOW IT WORKS

Growth Quests are grounded in a cycle of purposeful feedback, reflection, and revision that is adaptable across disciplines and responsive to a diverse range of learner needs. As students interact with AI to receive feedback, they learn to evaluate suggestions, make strategic decisions, and refine their work over time. Along the way, they sharpen their skills in distinguishing help versus surface-level AI feedback. The goal isn't just to improve the product at the center of the quest; it's equally about growth in the process.

Research shows that high-quality feedback strengthens learning and supports transfer when it is timely, specific, and aligned to clear goals. Hattie and Timperley (2007) note that feedback that moves beyond corrective feedback is especially powerful. This includes feedback at the process level (the strategies used) and feedback at the self-regulation level (to promote reflection and self-monitoring). Interestingly, studies on adaptive technologies have further established that AI-powered feedback systems can increase student engagement and self-regulation when integrated thoughtfully into instruction (Xie et al., 2019).

Common Classroom Applications

Elementary Examples

- **Stretching stories with AI.** Students tell a story to an AI tool and use its feedback to extend the ending or add detail.

  Prompt: "Here's my story. Can you help me make the ending more exciting?"

- **Revising pictures using voice prompts.** Students describe a drawing to AI, then revise their explanation with more detail after hearing AI's response.

  Prompt: "This is my drawing. [Upload picture] What more could I say so someone understands it better?"

- **Strengthening abilities to support opinion.** Students write a short opinion paragraph and use AI to suggest ways to strengthen their reasons.

  Prompt: "Here's my opinion paragraph. Does my reason make sense, or should I add more examples?"

Secondary Examples

- **Enhancing arguments.** Students use AI to test whether their claim and evidence in a persuasive paragraph are clear and compelling.

  Prompt: "Is my claim strong, and does this evidence support it well? What can I improve?"

- **Tuning-up creative writing drafts.** Students revise a piece of descriptive or narrative writing based on AI's suggestions about tone or pacing.

  Prompt: "Does this part move too slowly or quickly? How could I make it better for the reader?"

- **Refining essays iteratively and intentionally.** Students use AI to critique and revise the structure and clarity of a multi-paragraph analytical essay.

  Prompt: "Review this essay for flow and clarity. Are the transitions and topic sentences strong?"

Strategy in Action

At its core, your role in a Growth Quest is to guide students through a revision process that strengthens thinking, not one that only improves the final product. Structure the experience around purposeful feedback, reflection, and intentional revision. You can use the steps across subjects and grade levels, but mindfully keep the focus on helping students make meaning through multiple revision cycles. Make

sure to notice success when students begin to see revision as essential to learning, rather than just correcting errors.

Teacher Moves

- Introduce the Growth Quest task and clarify success criteria.
- Model how to write effective AI prompts aligned to the task.
- Guide students in interpreting AI feedback critically.
- Provide reflection prompts or sentence frames to support planning.
- Emphasize that revision is part of the learning, rather than simply fixing mistakes.

Student Moves

- Review the task and success criteria before drafting.
- Use structured prompts to request targeted feedback from AI, then revise prompts as necessary to generate relevant, actionable feedback.
- Critically evaluate AI suggestions and observations, and then decide what to apply and revise.
- Make thoughtful revisions that improve clarity or depth.
- Reflect on the multiple rounds of revision and the progression of changes.
- Reflect on and explain how their thinking and work improved through the revision process.

Extensions and Adaptations

- **Advanced learners:** Invite students to revise their AI prompts and complete additional feedback loops, comparing how the new feedback continued to shift their thinking.
- **Multilingual learners:** Encourage students to use their home language to reflect on changes and to access AI tools, pairing sentence frames in both English and their home language.
- **Emerging readers:** Offer visual revision journals where students draw their draft, feedback, and revision. Then, use AI voice tools to lower barriers while keeping the focus on reflection and revision to support and demonstrate learning.
- **Cross-content:** Have students apply Growth Quest strategies in additional subject areas. Then compare the revision experience across disciplines to help students further understand that revision is a transferable skill that supports thinking across disciplines.

Skill Progression by Grade Band

Grade Band	Skills	Supports
K–2: Early Revisers	• Use voice tools to tell a story or explain an idea • Listen to AI feedback and identify simple changes (e.g., "add a happy ending") • Respond to questions from AI with more detail • See revision as adding to or improving an idea	• Sentence stems for reflection on growth ("I changed . . . " or "Now I know . . . ") • Visual for a growth-focused learning process • Teacher-facing prompts for modeling positive change and growth • Timeline chart of class growth in a particular area • **Pictures and writing for growth analysis and guided discussion**
3–5: Intentional Improvers	• Use simple written or spoken prompts to ask for feedback • Identify one element of the work to improve (e.g., "make it clearer") • Choose which feedback to use (with teacher guidance) • Revise based on AI suggestions and explain the changes	• 3-column organizer to show growth (what I wrote, AI suggested, my revision) • **"Make this sentence better" activity using student-safe AI platforms for teacher-guided exploration** • Reflection sentence frames ("I made it better by . . . ") • Shared writing using collective intelligence (human-AI hybrid)
6–8: Reflective Refiners	• Write targeted prompts to improve clarity, structure, or logic • Interpret AI feedback independently and evaluate accuracy and usefulness • Apply selected suggestions and explain reasoning • Revise across multiple rounds and reflect on growth	• Protocol for peer debrief on AI feedback • Exit tickets for students to reflect on growth during one lesson, one week, one unit • Checklists to guide feedback evaluation and integration • **Sentence stems for metacognitive timeline-style reflection ("At first I thought . . . but now I see . . . ")**
9–12: Strategic Revisers	• Design specific, task-aligned prompts for feedback • Analyze AI feedback critically for precision, bias, or gaps • Synthesize multiple feedback sources (AI, peer, rubric) • Apply Growth Quest process across disciplines to support independent improvement	• Structured feedback and revision logs • Mentor prompts and feedback cycles for class discussion and learning • **"Pushback prompts" to stay in control of purpose, goal, and AI-generated supports** • List of different AI tools designed to support learning growth

online resources Examples of the boldface supports above can be found on the book's companion website here: https://companion.corwin.com/courses/TeachingStudentsAI