Teach Tech U

AI Literacy for Any Classroom: Simple Routines Students Can Actually Use

A classroom-ready mini-framework for responsible AI use (Grades 5–12 adaptable)

AI literacy isn't "how to use a chatbot." It's helping students learn to **think well with powerful tools**—and to understand **limits, bias, and responsibility**.

The 4 Things Students Must Learn (the AI Literacy Core)

1) What AI is (and isn't)

AI is a prediction tool. It generates likely words/images based on patterns—not truth.
✅ Key phrase for students: **"AI can sound right and still be wrong."**

2) How to verify

Students must learn **verification behaviors**:

- cross-check with a trusted source
- look for missing context
- identify uncertainty and assumptions

✅ Key phrase: **"If you can't verify it, you can't use it as fact."**

3) How to use it ethically

Students need norms for:

- honesty (no passing AI work as their own)
- attribution/disclosure (when AI helped)
- privacy (never share personal info)
- respect (no harmful or exploitative use)

✅ Key phrase: **"AI can assist—your thinking stays yours."**

4) How to maintain agency

AI should not replace:

- decision-making
- original reasoning
- voice and identity
- effort on assessed skills

✅ Key phrase: **"AI can support the work, but it can't do the learning."**

The "PAUSE" Routine (teach this in 5 minutes)

When students use AI, teach them to PAUSE:

P — Purpose: What is my goal? (brainstorm, practice, revise?)
A — Accuracy: What might be wrong or missing?
U — Use boundaries: What is allowed for this assignment?
S — Source check: What can I verify and cite?
E — Explain: What did *I* contribute? What would I do without AI?

This routine works in ELA, science, social studies, math, arts—everything.

Classroom Norms (copy/paste)

Use these as a starter and customize:

✅ **Allowed:** brainstorming, outlining, practice questions, revision suggestions
⚠️ **Allowed with disclosure:** summaries, drafts, example generation
🚫 **Not allowed:** replacing assessed thinking, cheating on tests, fabricating citations/sources
🚫 **Never:** sharing personal or student information with public tools

The Student Disclosure Statement (simple & powerful)

Have students include one line when AI is permitted:

"AI helped me with: _____. I verified: _____. My final decisions were: _____."

This reinforces integrity and metacognition.

A 15-minute AI Literacy Mini-Lesson (plug-and-play)

Prompt: "AI produced this answer. Should we trust it?"

1. Students highlight what sounds confident
2. Identify what must be verified
3. Cross-check one claim
4. Rewrite the answer with: *verified facts* + *uncertainty* + *citations*

✅ Outcome: Students learn that "good sounding" ≠ "good reasoning."

Common pitfalls to teach (quick list)

- hallucinations (made-up facts)
- fake citations / fake sources
- bias in examples and assumptions
- over-reliance ("AI said" is not evidence)
  loss of voice (generic writing)

Want your school to align on AI literacy norms?

Teach Tech U provides **Classroom-Safe AI PD** that helps staff:

- define "support vs substitution" across grade levels
- set clear student norms and disclosure language
  build AI literacy routines that fit existing curriculum
  leave with templates teachers can use immediately

Next step

✅ **Request PD for your school**
✅ **Ask a question** (we respond in 1–2 business days)

Teach Tech U — Human-Centered AI for Educators
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