

Promoting Academic Honesty and Critical Thinking in the AI- Enabled World

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APSU FCAM

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About Melynda



TEACHING

- 19 years Collegiate Communication Instructor
- Small Business Development Center Consultant
- Corporate Communication Consultant

FACULTY DEV

- 5 years as TBR's High Impact Practice Specialist
- Faculty Developer to 40 state institutions to increase student success for the TN Drive to 55

BUSINESS COMM

- 3rd year as Bus. Comm. Instructor in College of Business
- Tired of GenAI-written submissions
- Piloting GenAI Use and Critical Thinking Study

Session Overview

- ❖ Review the **current situation** and challenge of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) use.
- ❖ Discuss **options** to effectively teach and assess GenAI use.
- ❖ Explore helpful **tools** for GenAI use incorporation in any discipline.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution

We are now in the 4IR with the Internet of Things, Machine Learning, and Big Data.

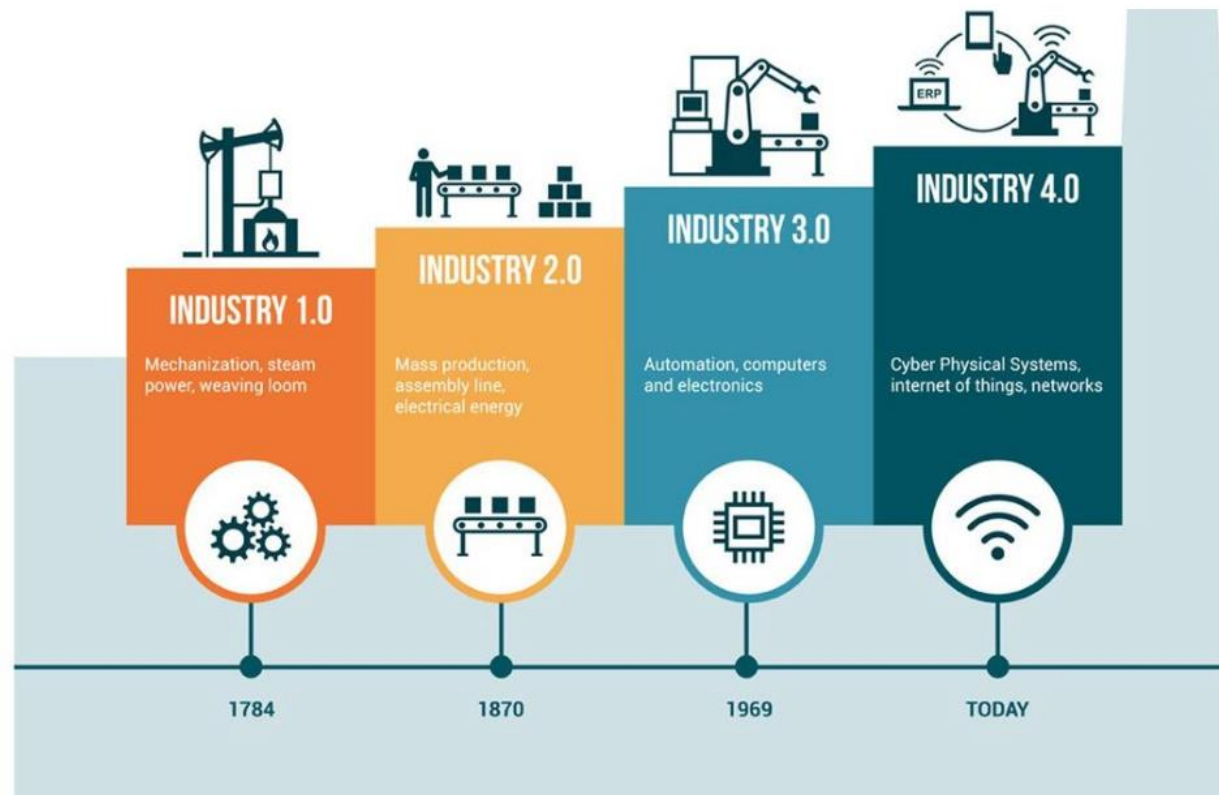


Figure 1. Timeline of industrial revolutions. [digital image].(n.d.). Retrieved from <http://spacenews.com/sponsored/industrial-revolution/>.

GenAI Bots Rapidly Evolving

OpenAI launched the first ChatGPT only 2.5 years ago.

AACSB

Gen AI Essentials Cheat Sheet

Tool	Short Description	Best Use Case Topics for Deans & Business Professors	Freemium Price & Value	Premium Price & Value
 ChatGPT	AI chatbot that generates text-based responses, ideas, and explanations.	Drafting emails, brainstorming ideas, and creating academic content.	✓	\$20/month for GPT-4, offering better accuracy and capabilities.
 perplexity	AI-powered search engine for quick, reliable answers with citations.	Researching topics, finding data sources, and exploring new academic fields.	✓	\$20/month provides faster response times and enhanced tools.
 Claude	AI assistant focused on creative and strategic writing with deep contextual understanding.	Drafting strategies, creating presentations, and refining communication materials.	✓	\$20/month for advanced API usage with extended capabilities.
 Copilot	AI tool by GitHub for coding assistance and automation.	Automating repetitive tasks, improving tech-related processes in administration.	✓	\$20/month for full access, including team collaboration features. \$30/month for Co-Pilot for Microsoft365
 Gemini	Google's next-generation AI assistant offering contextual understanding across multiple tasks.	Managing projects, organizing collaboration, and optimizing workflows.	✓	\$20/month. Pricing TBD for advanced features and scalability.
 NotebookLM	AI that helps manage and understand large volumes of text-based data, especially research papers.	Synthesizing reports, organizing research materials, and tracking trends.	✓	\$20/month. Premium plans to be announced, with additional storage and features.
 Consensus	Research-focused AI that finds consensus among scientific articles and papers.	Summarizing literature, identifying research trends, and supporting academic arguments.	✓	Premium pricing offers higher query limits and detailed analysis.
 ResearchRabbit	Literature review tool that visualizes connections between papers and authors.	Mapping research trends, identifying collaborations, and visualizing academic networks.	✓	FREE. Includes expanded visualizations and storage.
 Elicit	AI that assists in systematic reviews and decision-making based on research evidence.	Creating grant proposals, planning academics, and making evidence-based decisions.	✓	Premium tiers offer faster processing and additional integrations.
 Adobe Firefly	Generative AI for creative content like images, designs, and branding.	Creating marketing materials, enhancing presentations, and designing visuals.	✓	Subscription pricing varies; premium includes advanced creative tools.
 scite_	AI that provides citations and contextual information to support academic claims.	Generating annotated bibliographies and verifying references for academic papers.	✓	\$20/month for advanced citation insights and export options.
 Gamma	AI tool for generating dynamic, visually appealing presentations with minimal effort.	Developing professional presentations for meetings, classes, and workshops.	✓	Premium plans start at \$9/month for custom branding and advanced templates.

GenAI in Education & at Work

- ❖ The rapid advancement of GenAI has sparked both **excitement and concern** within academia.
- ❖ We can no longer accurately evaluate GenAI use as plagiarism with any certainty. We can only speculate. **GenAI use detectors simply don't work** (MIT, 2025).
- ❖ **“Employees need to use GenAI** to transform their work, and they need to know how to mitigate the risks of using GenAI” (Adika, 2025, para. 4).

What About Critical Thinking?

- ❖ **Critical thinking is a vital skill** in the business world, enabling professionals to make informed decisions and solve problems well (Paul & Elder, 2014).
- ❖ **Employers expect** college graduates to utilize robust critical thinking skills when tackling problems on the job (NACE, 2025).

Critical Thinking & GenAI

- ❖ Some researchers have expressed concern that using GenAI tools **may diminish critical thinking skills** (Lee et al., 2025).
- ❖ Conversely, when utilized strategically, GenAI has been **shown to be a powerful tool** in developing students' information synthesis, argument construction, and creative problem-solving.
 - ❖ **The key is to guide students** to thoughtfully and critically use GenAI rather than to passively accept its outputs (Gerlich, 2025).

The Challenge

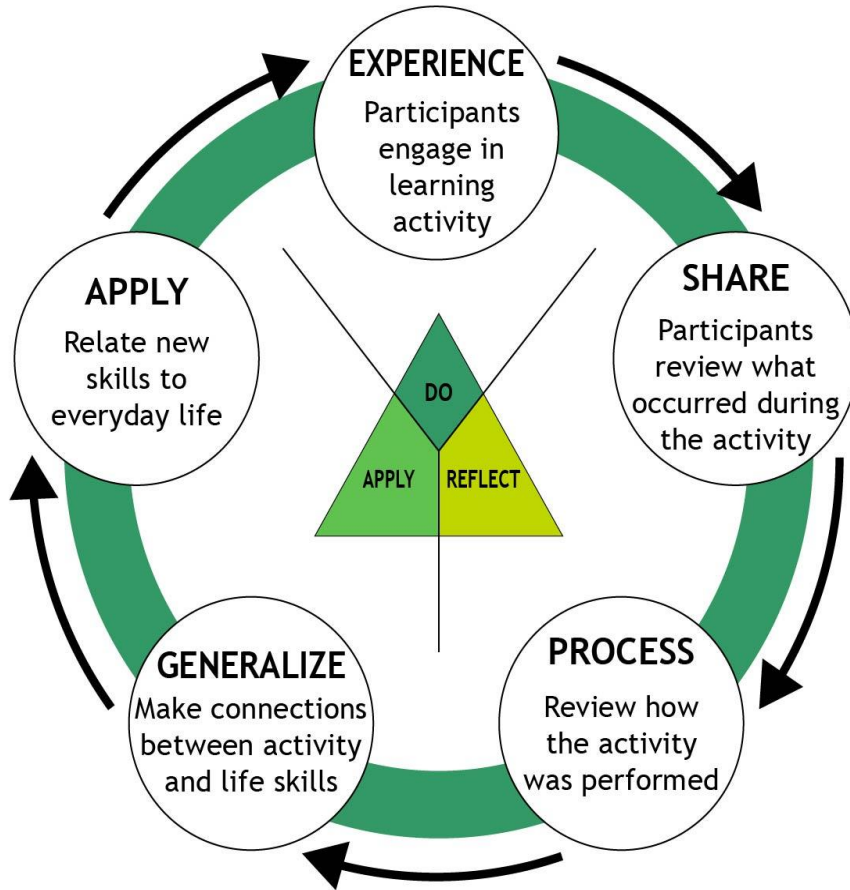
Rapidly evolving GenAI platforms are disrupting teaching and learning processes in noticeable ways.

Many instructors are challenged with:

- ❖ understanding **how to integrate GenAI** into teaching, learning, and assessment processes
- ❖ **upholding academic honesty** with GenAI use
- ❖ **supporting students' critical thinking skills** while incorporating GenAI use

Tech Changes. Learning Doesn't.

Experiential Learning Model



DO

1) Experience: Participants engage in learning activity

REFLECT (skill focused)

2) Share: Participants review what occurred during the activity

3) Process: Review how the activity was performed

APPLY (activity focused)

4) Generalize: Make connections between activity and life skills

5) Apply: Relate new skills to everyday life

What About Academic Honesty?

- ❖ **Transparency is key.**

- ❖ **Detail your expectations** about GenAI use your a course with an AI statement in your syllabus.
- ❖ **Discuss your policy** with students to ensure understanding.
- ❖ **Acknowledge** that there is no current method that successfully determines whether work is AI-generated.
- ❖ **Educate** about ethical and effective use of AI in your field.
- ❖ **Structure assignments** to mitigate use of and/or support effective learning of GenAI.
- ❖ **Uphold and adjust** your policy as needed.

Teach the Best Way to Utilize GenAI

- ❖ **Transactional** use of AI is when human input ends at the prompt stage. Students accept AI-generated output with minimal assessment or critique.
- ❖ **Transformational use of AI** is always “human-in-the-loop.”
 - ❖ **Effectively inform** and shape the ideas generated in a continuous back-and-forth exchange across inputs and outputs.
 - ❖ **Critically review** and evaluate what any AI tool is generating.
 - ❖ **Explain** that prerequisite knowledge (reading comprehension, information literacy, research, etc.) are needed to maximize the benefits of AI.

This Is Our Big Chance

- ❖ Right now we all have a **unique opportunity** to reevaluate our course teaching methods to reflect our existence in the 4IR.
- ❖ So, I'm going to take advantage of this **transitional period** by ensuring students learn how, when, where, and why to use this new tool responsibly.

Are you with me?

GenAI Critical Thinking Study

- ❖ Mixed-methods pilot study in one section of Business Communication in Fall 2025
- ❖ Incorporating Gen AI use within writing assignments to enhance, rather than replace, the development of students' critical thinking.
- ❖ Tools to be utilized:
 - ❖ GenAI **attestation statement** for all assignments
 - ❖ GenAI **level designations** on all assignments
 - ❖ **GenAI-enhanced assignment instructions** for 3-4
 - ❖ Pre- and Post-Semester Critical Thinking Assessment
 - ❖ Pre- and Post-Semester Perception Survey

GenAI Student Use Attestation

- ❖ This pilot study will ask students to provide an **attestation** when they submit assignments as to whether or not they used AI.
- ❖ If yes, they will provide the name of the platform used as well as detail the **prompt(s) used**.
- ❖ A brief **reflection** will be required on their sense of how Gen AI helped or hindered their learning as they completed the assignment.

GenAI Use Attestation Example

Example Attestation:

I, [student name], attest that I did ☐ / did not ☐ (check one) utilize GenAI to help me complete this assignment.

If you **did** utilize GenAI, in the table below, provide the name of all platforms used, all prompts used, and a brief reflection on your sense of how GenAI helped or hindered your learning as you completed this assignment.

Platform Tried	Prompts Tried	How did your use of GenAI help and/or hinder your learning as you completed this assignment?

AI Use Transparency

Seven Levels of Possible GenAI Usage

	Level descriptor:	What this looks like in practice:
Level 0	No use of GenAI	Students will create their own, original work without the use of GenAI for any manner.
Level 1	Organizational use of GenAI	Students will create their own, original work without the use of GenAI; however, the use of GenAI for personal efficiency (i.e., summarizing notes/readings, clarifying content) is acceptable.
Level 2	Use of GenAI for brainstorming or idea generation	Students can consult GenAI as a tool for brainstorming or idea generation, but are expected to create their own, original work without the use of GenAI.
Level 3	Use of GenAI for feedback	Students create their own work, then use GenAI as a tool to provide feedback on their work. Students are expected to use feedback from GenAI to conduct their own revisions of their own work, so any work submitted should be GenAI-supported, not Gen-AI created.
Level 4	Use of GenAI to co-create and revise work	Students can use GenAI to develop drafts/outlines of their work but are expected to carefully edit and revise GenAI-created content as appropriate for their learning context. It is expected that any use of GenAI-created content is properly disclosed and attributed.
Level 5	Unrestricted, attributed use of GenAI	Students can freely use GenAI if the use of any GenAI-created content is properly disclosed and attributed.
Level 6	Unrestricted, unattributed use of GenAI	Students can freely use GenAI in any form. Attribution is not necessary. <i>Note: While it is possible to use GenAI in an unrestricted manner without attribution, any who apply this level of GenAI use in their course should carefully consider ethical and legal implications of such AI use.</i>

A suggested 7th level is Mandatory GenAI use.

(Friberg, 2025)

GenAI Level & Instructions Example

- ❖ My *TIL*Ted assignment instructions will all include a GenAI Use Level label.
- ❖ Each set of assignment instructions will include:
 - Purpose
 - GenAI Level
 - Tasks
 - Criteria

Keyword Generation Example:

Purpose – Use GenAI to generate keywords.

GenAI Level – 2

Tasks –

- ❖ Upload a brief summary of the topic you want to research and your research objective into a GenAI bot.
- ❖ Prompt the bot: “Based on the research topic and information provided in the attachment, provide a list of keywords I can enter into a research database.”

Criteria – Include the keywords in your Business Research Report Draft.

If You Don't Want GenAI Responses

Assessment strategies that restrict or eliminate the use of GenAI:

- ❖ Traditional pen and paper assessments
- ❖ Reflections and personalization
- ❖ Oral exams or presentations
- ❖ Incorporate peer review
- ❖ Test your assignment instructions against GenAI

Your Turn

How might you begin to incorporate GenAI-enhanced instruction or have students use GenAI in your course?

Think of one example to share.

Reflection

Let's do the 3-2-1! Write down...

- ❖ **3** things you've learned
- ❖ **2** things you would like to explore further
- ❖ **1** question you have

Any Questions or Suggestions?

Feel free to contact me:

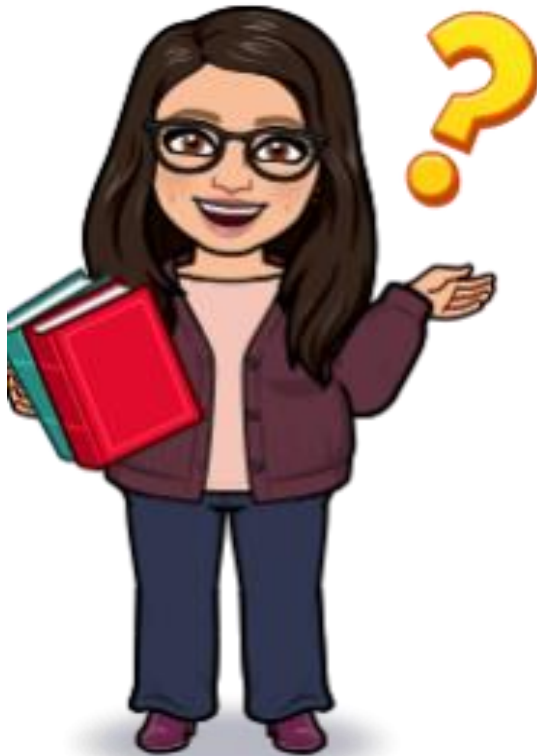
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For session resources:



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