

Two Effective Ways Students Can Use AI to Boost Their Learning

Generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Copilot have quickly become valuable allies in education, offering students new strategies to enhance their learning experience. This week, we highlight two impactful ways students can harness AI effectively.

Self-Quizzing for Retrieval Practice

GenAI tools can help students create personalized quizzes for self-testing. Students can quickly generate customized questions and answers on any topic, allowing them to regularly assess their own understanding. This retrieval practice strengthens memory and helps identify areas needing extra attention.

Example Prompt (Self-Assessment):

“You are a biology professor. Ask me questions about photosynthesis to test my understanding. After each response provide feedback on my answer.”

The image below illustrates an excerpt of a ChatGPT conversation based on this prompt.

You're on the right track! 🌱

Photosynthesis is indeed about converting light into energy—but to be more precise, the **primary purpose** is to **convert light energy into chemical energy** in the form of **glucose**, which the plant can use for growth and metabolism. Oxygen is also released as a byproduct.

✅ **Feedback:** Partial credit for understanding the light-to-energy concept. Next time, try to be more specific: light energy → chemical energy (glucose).

Score: 0.5 / 1

Ready? Here's your **second question**:

2. In which organelle of the plant cell does photosynthesis take place?

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Skill Development with Feedback

AI provides instant and detailed feedback that enables deliberate practice, particularly valuable when mastering new skills such as writing, debating and public speaking. By submitting practice exercises to AI-based tools, students gain immediate insights into mistakes, suggestions for improvement, and tailored recommendations for further practice.

Example Prompt (Writing Development):

“Provide detailed feedback on my introductory paragraph for an argumentative essay on climate change: [Paste paragraph].”

Example Prompt (Debate Practice):

“I'm preparing for a classroom debate on the topic: '[Insert Debate Topic Here]' My position is [Pro/Con or a specific viewpoint]. Suggest persuasive language or rhetorical strategies I could use during my speech and help me anticipate strong counterarguments from the opposing side.”

Example Prompt (Presentation Skills):

“Provide suggestions on how I can improve my opening statement for a persuasive speech about reducing plastic waste: [Paste speech introduction].”

Harnessing AI for regular self-quizzing and skill development not only promotes deeper learning but also fosters self-directed study habits critical for long-term academic success. Want to give it a try, this [Pomodoro Study Aid](#) combines focused study sessions with AI-driven self-quizzing (requires ChatGPT login).