

Demystifying AI in Education: Understanding How It Works So We Can Use It Wisely

Gary Herman & Maria Pratt
6/26/25

bit.ly/IntroCafeAI



Why This Matters

- AI is becoming ubiquitous in education
- Understanding reduces fear and anxiety
- Builds confidence for responsible implementation
- Prepares us to guide students in an AI-driven future

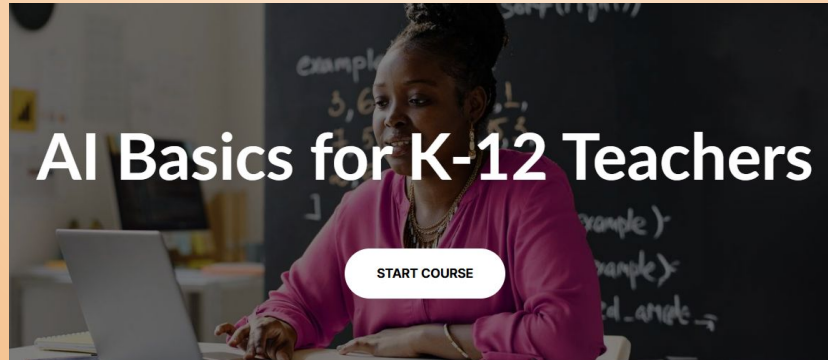
What's your biggest concern about AI in education?

The AI Process

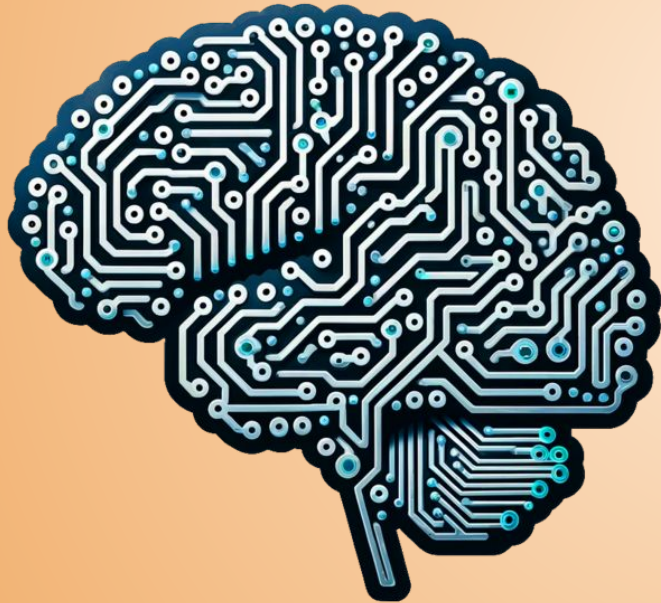
- Input (Your prompt)
- Processing (Pattern matching)
- Output (Generated content)

- Systems mimicking human intelligence
- Examples in daily use:
 - ChatGPT
 - Grammarly
 - Siri
 - Google Translate

***What Is
AI?***



Breaking the Magic Spell



- AI operates on pattern recognition
- No true "understanding" or consciousness
- Think "advanced pattern matching" like an algorithmic powerhouse
- Works like predictive text, but more sophisticated
- It only knows what is fed into it.

Understanding Large Language Models

- Trained on vast text datasets
- Pattern recognition in:
 - Grammar
 - Context
 - Language structure
 - Word prediction system
 - Images



Understanding AI Hallucinations

- Confabulations (Fills in the details with plausible options.)
 - False information generation
 - Pattern matching gone wrong
- Example scenarios in education
- Verification importance

Conversation starter: Share an experience with AI giving incorrect information

Temperature of AI

- 0.0 - 1.0+
- Higher levels allow for more creativity/filling in the gaps and “out there” type responses.
 - Risk taking
 - May be less relevant
- Lower levels are more constrained to use only what information is available.
 - Great for task consistency & accuracy
- ChatGPT temperature is set around 0.7

Best Practices for Schools

- Local conversations
 - [Template document for discussions](#) (this example was for a HS ELA department)
- Verification protocols
- Appropriate use cases
- Ethical considerations
- Student guidance framework

Link: www.commonsensei.org/ai-guidelines

Next Steps & Resources

- Recommended reading:
 - "Teaching with AI" by Watson & Bowen
 - "Co-Intelligence" by Ethan Mollick
- Professional development opportunities
 - [ChatGPT Foundations for K-12 teachers](#) (FREE 1-hour course)
 - [Prompting Resource document](#) (CRE Framework)
 - [GenAI Prompt Library](#)
- AI tools for educators
- Possible AI
 - ChatGPT, Gemini, CoPilot, Claude, MagicSchool
- **bit.ly/IntroCafeAI**