

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

AI Practice Workshops

Overview

The first step for WP2 is to get some experiences using AI with writing. To do that, we'll follow a number of steps below. Please document these steps in the attached AI Practices Worksheet and turn it in with your WP2.

Day 1

Step 1: Choosing a Client

Before we begin anything else, please choose a client you'd like to use and create an account. This will help you stay consistent throughout the process. Possible clients include ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, or Gemini. Clients should be able to accept writing inputs and give writing outputs. If you're not sure about whether a client will be good, please ask your instructor.

To complete this step, please try out no fewer than three clients. Share your experiences with your peers in the class.

Step 2: Use the AI Practice Worksheet

Now that you have a client chosen, let's practice using the AI Practice Worksheet. We're doing to start with #1 on the list of "Writing Areas to Try AI": Brainstorming.

Let's imagine we're using AI to help with WP1 from the very beginning. Try to use your AI client to help you come up with ideas you could use for your WP1. What would you give the AI, both in terms of inputs and prompts? Be sure to document this carefully on your worksheet.

See what the AI gives you for an output and put this on your worksheet as well. Take a moment to analyze it: Do you like what the AI gave you? Why or why not? What's good or bad about it?

To complete this step, you must have tried brainstorming at least twice and documented the process. Be sure to analyze your results. Share your experiences with your peers and make sure to double check that you are documenting your process correctly.

Step 3: Creating an Outline

Choose your favorite idea from the brainstorming exercise above. Use your AI client to help you create an outline for this imaginary project. Be sure to document your inputs, prompts, and outputs. Once you have an output, analyze it. Do you like it? Why or why not? What's good or bad about it?

To complete this step, you must have created at least two different possible outlines and documented the process, including analyzing results. Share your experiences with your peers.

Homework

Day 1's homework is to try this again at least two more times for each brainstorming and outlining. Share your results in Blackboard to get homework credit.

Day 2

Step 1: Modeling

From day 1, you have a few ideas you could use, and you have an outline. Now, see if you can get your AI client to help you see a model of an assignment. Take a recent assignment sheet (such as WP1, but try another class if you have one available), and see if you can get your AI client to create a model of that assignment for you. Break it down: What good about the model? What could be better? Be sure to keep track of your results in your Worksheet.

To complete this step, please try to use AI to get two different kinds of model texts. Share your experiences with your peers in the class.

Step 2: Drafting

Let's now imagine that you're writing the first draft of your paper. AI might be able to help you draft. Consider the various ways that this might happen: it could provide sample paragraphs, it could help you clarify ideas, it could help you change what you have.

Try to use AI in various ways in drafting a single paragraph, both creating the whole thing and helping you make pieces that you'll put together yourself. As usual, analyze the results: what is good and bad about each output? Be sure to keep track of your results in your Worksheet.

To complete this step, please try various approaches to having AI help you draft a paragraph and keep track of your results. Share your experiences with your peers.

Step 3: Revising

Now that you have a paragraph, try to use your AI client to help you revise. See if you can get it to make the paragraph longer or shorter. See if you can have it offer suggestions for revision. Have it proof read the content to check for non-standard grammar or spelling. Consider various

approaches and try them out. As usual, analyze the results for their quality and keep track of your experiments on your worksheet.

To get credit for this part, please try out at least three different methods for revision and track your results. Share your experiences with your peers.