

Exploring AI in the Classroom

Quick Reference — Wingate University Faculty Seminar, Spring 2026

The Stoplight Framework

Use per-assignment to communicate AI expectations clearly.

GREEN **AI encouraged.** Brainstorming topics, generating practice quizzes, surveying a research landscape. The learning is in what the student does with the output.

YELLOW **Permitted with conditions.** AI-assisted outlines (student writes all prose), code debugging (student explains the fix). Requires: attribution, reflection, revision log, or instructor permission.

RED **Not permitted.** Timed in-class essays, oral exams, portfolio reflections. Assesses unassisted ability or authentic voice.

Most academic integrity conflicts come from ambiguity, not dishonesty. Clear expectations before the assignment prevent detective work after it.

The CORE Prompting Framework

Structure every prompt with four elements:

- C**ontext — Who is the audience? What do they know?
- O**bjective — What should the output accomplish?
- R**equirements — Format, length, constraints, tone.
- E**xpectations — What does good look like? What to avoid?

Removing any element degrades results. Vague in, vague out. Iteration is normal — revise the prompt, not just the output.

Sample Faculty Prompts

Rubric Generation

"Create a 4-level rubric for a persuasive essay in a first-year composition course. Levels: Exemplary, Proficient, Developing, Beginning. Criteria: thesis clarity, evidence use, organization, mechanics. Use student-friendly language."

Discussion Board Seeding

"Generate three discussion prompts for an undergraduate sociology reading about social media and identity. Target Bloom's 'Analyze' level. Each should invite productive disagreement without a single correct answer. Audience: sophomores with mixed engagement."

Assessment Item Refinement

"Take this recall-level question: 'What is the definition of photosynthesis?' Convert it to an application-level question for an introductory biology exam. Include four options with one correct answer and three plausible distractors. Explain why each distractor is wrong."

Key Reminders

- AI predicts patterns — it doesn't understand content
- Hallucination is architectural, not a bug to be fixed
- AI detection tools have significant false-positive rates
- AI produces first drafts — your expertise refines them
- Policies should specify *process*, not just classification
- The prompt is the lever — specific instructions produce dramatically better output