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Mindfully Integrating AI into the University Classroom
With Tips from Educators

As technology rapidly advances, AI's role in education is growing. Educators and tech providers are exploring the challenges and opportunities of AI, such as Chat GPT, in university classrooms. This whitepaper, based on insights from educators Erika Martinez and Marissa Dahari, offers strategies for integrating AI in student assessment mindfully. It highlights the benefits of AI, like workflow optimization and efficiency, but stresses the importance of using it as a supplement to human intelligence. Practical tips for effective AI integration, such as peer review and clear AI usage policies, empower educators to enhance learning while maintaining academic integrity and student engagement.

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As technology advances rapidly, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education becomes increasingly prevalent. Educators, administrators, and educational technology providers are exploring the challenges and opportunities educators face when incorporating AI, specifically AI-driven writing tools like Chat GPT, into the university classroom.

Drawing on insights shared by educators Erika Martinez and Marissa Dahari during a presentation for Macmillan Learning, several strategies for mindful and intentional integration of AI in the assessment of student writing are provided in this whitepaper. This whitepaper examines the benefits of AI tools, including optimizing workflow, saving time, and organizing knowledge.

Below you will find practical tips, such as using peer review, adjusting assessment weights, and creating a clear policy on AI usage, to empower educators in effectively integrating AI in their teaching methods. By adopting a thoughtful approach, educators can harness the power of AI to enhance the learning experience while upholding academic integrity and ensuring students actively engage in the learning process.

Understanding AI in Education

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has ushered in a new era in education, transforming the way students learn and instructors teach. Educators, however, face a unique challenge in integrating AI into their classrooms mindfully and intentionally, especially when it comes to assessing student work.

There are benefits to using AI in Education, such as workflow optimization, time-management, knowledge organization, and diverse information hunting. However, there are limitations and pitfalls of AI as well, including lack of effective AI detectors, inability to identify AI usage, and writing devoid of human emotion and expression.

Real-World Applications

Instructors can either embrace AI as a new technology or reject it completely. The latter does not seem to be an option given the increase in online, hybrid, and even hi-flex instruction. For those seeking to embrace AI, there are options for doing so below.

Consider AI in Into Assessments

By designing AI-generated writing assignments and developing peer-review strategies for AI-generated content, the entire process becomes transparent and gives students boundaries to work within and among as they, too, navigate this confusing transition.

This also allows instructors to address the issue as a matter of academic integrity. By identifying and preventing AI misuse and utilizing real-time monitoring tools for online exams, it becomes possible to re-insert the human element into grading. Marissa Dahari has changed her approach to exam monitoring because of generative AI. "I could tell some of the students were typing in the exact question either on their phone or another computer on the side. It was very obvious. Now I have the teaching assistants review every student's exam and it takes a lot more man hours. But students talk, so as we're catching more of this behavior, the word gets out that I have a zero-tolerance policy for cheating on the exam."

For major assessments, instructors can consider having students work in teams. This may allow them to check each other's sources and work on that together, but also keep each other honest. The theory is that if one teammate wanted to submit something from an AI generative tool, the others would not want to risk the zero and would dissuade their teammate from including the AI text.

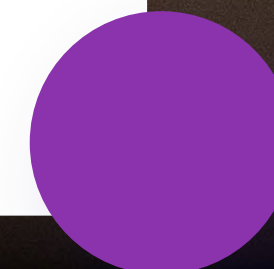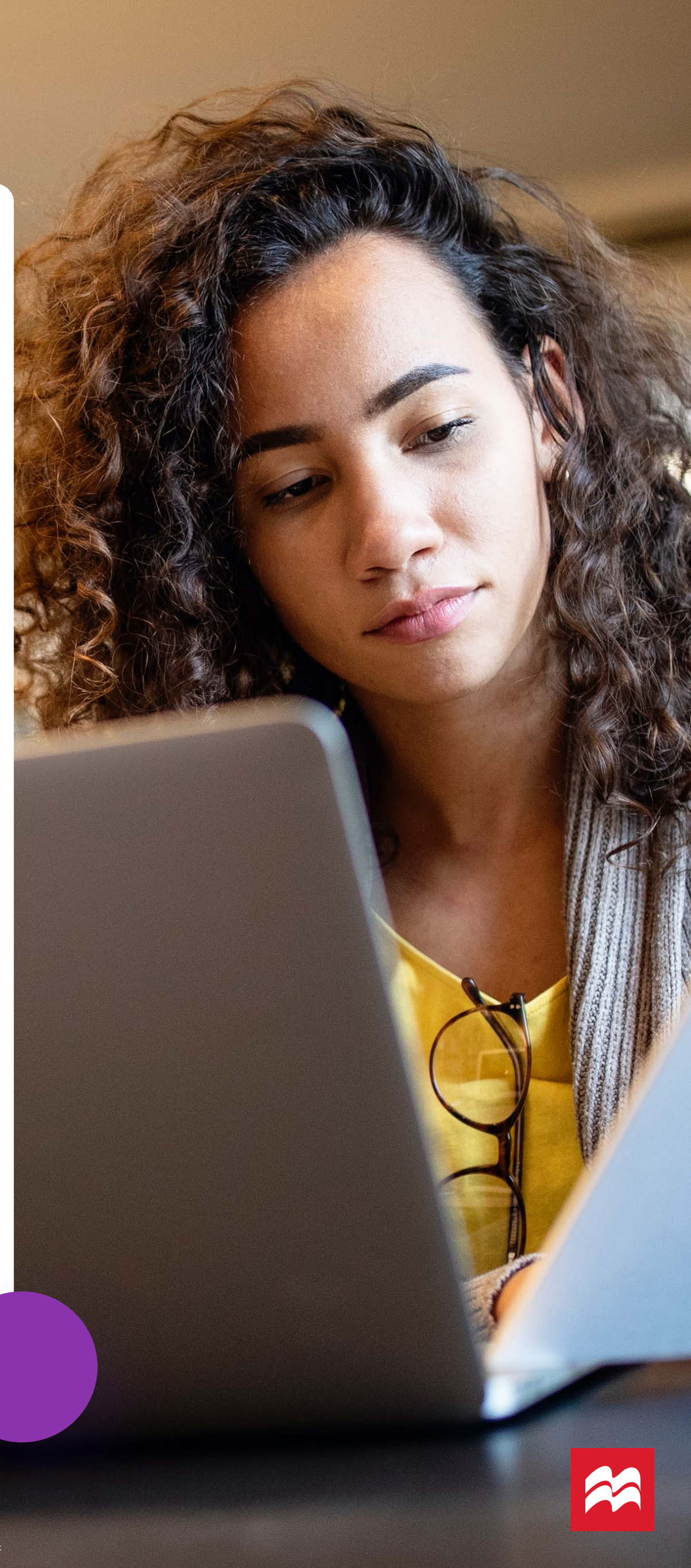### Emphasizing the Unique Value of Human Intelligence

We can convey to students that writing skills matter and learning to write well matters, by encouraging critical thinking and analysis and fostering creativity and emotional expression.

A sample assignment would be to encourage students to use chat GPT to paraphrase certain segments of a selected paper and basing their grade on evaluating whether or not chat GPT was accurate and whether all the main points that the author was trying to convey were included. Marissa recalls, "I used this and it ended up being a bit more difficult of assignment because it is a level of mastery beyond the scope of the course in terms of providing that output. But I had a student yesterday tell me that they were really excited to do this assignment and couldn't wait because they were excited to see what chat GTP would generate."

Prepare Students for the Future

AI is meant to be a complement to human skills, so preparing students for AI-driven workplaces only benefits them. Erika states, "I don't spend a lot of time talking about AI; in fact, I don't spend any time at the front of the classroom speaking about it, but I do provide plenty of documentation that addresses the usage philosophy behind AI." She finds this allows students to take more ownership of the aspects of their work that are original and the aspects that aren't, and to be more transparent in that process. This type of integrity as it relates to original content, can help students and employees work smarter instead of harder, by focusing their skills on discernment in revision as opposed to content generation.

The integration of artificial intelligence into the university classroom presents both challenges and opportunities. By setting clear policies, adjusting assessment weights, implementing peer review, and emphasizing the unique value of human intelligence, educators can harness the power of AI to enhance the learning experience while ensuring academic integrity and fostering student engagement. Mindful and intentional integration of AI tools empowers educators to prepare students for the future while upholding the essence of meaningful education—the cultivation of human intellect and creativity in an increasingly technologically advanced world.
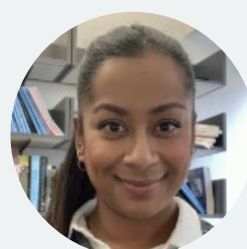
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About Macmillan Learning Faculty Consultants

Erika Martinez is a professor in the University of South Florida Economics Department. Erica teaches various applied microeconomics classes, mainly Principles of Microeconomics. She also teaches part-time for the UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler MBA program and for Santa Barbara City College in California.

Marissa Dahari is an Undergraduate Teaching Coordinator and Laboratory Demonstrator in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Marissa teaches many courses in her department and right now is teaching them first-year Introduction to Biology course.

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