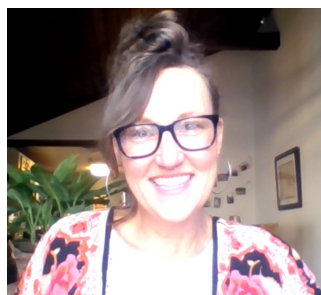


USING AI TO PROVIDE WRITING FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS

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As a writing and learning specialist, I know that the most straightforward pathway to improving one's writing skills is to get consistent and substantial writing feedback. If you've ever worked alongside an editor on a piece of your writing, you know the value of getting effective writing feedback and suggested improvements, and likely, you learned something while working with an editor that you continue to apply to your writing today.

As an instructor, you provide feedback to students weekly. But if you are not a trained writing instructor, you may struggle to provide meaningful *writing-specific* feedback. Or you may find that you do not have the time needed to supplement your feedback on course learning objectives with additional writing-specific feedback, even for those students who you see struggling with writing. I want to share a specific AI tool that faculty can use to provide meaningful writing feedback on student work. Using it will free you up to focus exclusively on the course learning objectives while giving you an assist in the area of writing instruction. Helping students improve their writing skills is another way for you to have a lasting impact on a student's academic and professional success.

The Princeton Review AI Essay Feedback Tool

The UAGC Writing Center recently made the Princeton Review AI Essay Feedback tool available to students through a partnership with Tutor.com. I advocate for faculty to use this AI tool as well. When you see a student paper that clearly shows the student's need for writing-specific feedback, download that paper and submit it to this AI Essay Feedback tool. Within 30-45 seconds, it provides both summative feedback and margin comments, all devoted to writing improvement. You can then copy any of that writing feedback and add it to the feedback you provide on the student's assignment within SpeedGrader, Waypoint, Blackboard Annotate, or whatever online grading and feedback tool you are using. You can edit and adapt the feedback as you wish, as well as include a link to an appropriate writing guide such as those found within the [UAGC Writing Center website](#).

I have found that it does take an extra two minutes to download the paper from Canvas (or any other CMS) and then upload it to the AI tool, but it is well worth the effort, especially for non-writing instructors who would likely take much more time and mental energy to provide meaningful suggestions for writing improvements. This effort on your part will pay off for your students too, especially with our workforce prep focus and the need for just about every profession to have strong writing skills.

How is This AI Tool Different Than Using ChatGPT or Copilot?

Something I like about the AI Essay Feedback tool is that it is clearly built for education. It does not create, replace, or revise the student's writing. It only provides feedback in the form of suggested writing improvements. While general generative AI tools can certainly offer supportive writing feedback, these are not created specifically for education or for academic writing. For generic generative AI tools,

you would need to create a clear and specific prompt for what you want AI to provide. The AI Essay Feedback tool has those instructions already built in. It is programmed to provide writing suggestions alone.

Also, basic generative AI tools such as Copilot provide summative comments but don't include margin comments and suggestions at the point of need within the writing. As an instructor, you need to include feedback within the student's submission in addition to summative feedback. For a student, they need feedback at the point of need within their writing to better understand where and how to improve. This tool provides this.

Natural Leadership Style Challenges

Jorge's natural leadership style is very task-oriented. He spells out what needs to be done and expects it to be taken care of. In assessing his standard approach, one would expect that Jorge would be in the bottom right quadrant of the leadership grid used in the behavioral approach of leadership. Some of his staff will not tolerate this authority-compliance approach.

Essay Review

The description of Jorge's leadership style could be expanded to include specific examples or scenarios. This would provide a clearer picture of how his style manifests in practice.

Reply

How to Try the AI Essay Feedback Tool

For UAGC faculty, this tool is made available through your Canvas classroom within the Writing Center link in the left-navigation menu. Once you click on that Writing Center link, you'll select Submit a Paper. On the next screen, along the top banner menu, you will see the Drop-Off Paper Review menu selection, where you will select AI Essay Review. From there, you can upload a paper to get the review within about 30 seconds. That review will generate on the screen for you, but in my experience, it works best to click Download, which will provide you with a Word doc. This way, you can easily copy those valuable margin comments from the Word doc to apply as in-line feedback to your student through the online grading program you are using.

The screenshot shows the UAGC Global Campus interface. On the left, a navigation menu lists various links, with 'Writing Center & Library' highlighted by a red box. In the center, a 'Paper Review' panel features a red box around the 'Submit a Paper >>' button. On the right, a top banner menu includes options like 'Drop Off Paper Review' and 'AI Essay Review', with the latter also highlighted by a red box.

If you are a faculty member at another university, check with your office or department of academic support or tutoring services to find out if they partner with a tutoring vendor who has the Princeton Review AI Essay Feedback tool available for use. If not, the tool can be purchased, but I consider it an expensive option at \$1 per essay review.

Share Your Experiences

If you use this tool to aid you in giving your students writing-specific feedback, I'd love to hear about your experience or how your students respond to it. Email me at millie.tyznik@uagc.edu.