From Theory to Practice

BEYOND ChatGPT:
Strategic AI Into Effective and Engaging Teaching

By Danny Torres, AEP teacher

ChatGPT offers a potential number of opportunities and challenges when it comes to teaching—ranging from an instant online editor, source of information, ideas generator, assessment assistant, and many more. Well, the truth is AI indeed comes in more different ways. In essence, AI aims to perform tasks that human intelligence can do by learning, solving problems, and interacting with natural language based on input we give and platforms that have integrated such technology. There are already available free tools different from **ChatGPT** that can be easily used as chatbots, virtual assistants, and content generators in class. We just need to figure out how to dive into this new ocean of possibilities by learning how to surf its waves and navigate through upcoming challenges such as demanding students and our always-changing reality. In this short article, you can find some ideas and resources to try yourself and decide whether or not they add to or detract from your class.

Spice up your Lessons by Engaging Students Actively

Interactive and audience platforms that incorporate polls, instant drawing, word clouds, Q&A sessions, and interactive quizzes are a great way to engage students and gather audience feedback. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, they seemed quite innovative, but now, platforms like MENTIEMETER, NEARPOD, and SLIDO are part of the toolbox of teachers who teach remotely or on-site. CURIPOD's AI tools are designed to boost teacher's instruction before or while teaching. Compared to the previously mentioned platforms, this one has worked for free up until now, and it does not have a limit of slides or features to access. A whole lesson can be generated with both input and output activities. Content slides can be designed either by AI or yourself including hooks, identifying existing knowledge, intriguing discussions, or event tests; you can easily save yourself some time and spice up the flow of your lesson. It also features SEL ideas and activities to take a meaningful break or just check in anytime. In addition to all this, it also comes with in-class projects, assessments, and feedback ideas aligned to the development of global skills that can be done in just a matter of seconds. Although facts need to be fact-checked, and some slides may need editing, this tool is handy and appealing for adding fun to your lessons without having to pay or feeling limited or that your whole lesson depends on AI.

Max out your Files and Writing Projects

Students formerly have learned the profound impact and practicality that ChatGPT has when it comes to writing and editing. As teachers, we have seen AI generative text applied to emails, reports, and essays. Fortunately, by being aware of this we can both resort to online AI detectors and most importantly, we can remind students of the importance of stressing the human loop when resorting to AI. While AI in education serves to personalized learning, automation,

scalability, and data-driven insight, human educators can give emotional and social support, complex problem-solving guidance, and motivation and inspiration that AI just cannot (yet). By encouraging students to use ChatGPT wisely, they can make decisions by themselves and come up with an original product. Either in the stage of prewriting, proofreading, or editing, learners can apprehend what good writing is, and what is expected from them as English users when it comes to effective and accurate writing communication. Without just generating AI text instantly, students can learn within the process by improving on aspects like proofreading word choice, and citing. One of the best actions to take is to use the already-integrated AI in GOOGLE DOCS and GOOGLE SLIDES. Google Workspace Labs has enabled the 'Help Me Write' tool, which works just by typing prompts within an icon (pencil) and textbox that is displayed in the document. That way a document can be considered human-made or at least human-oriented, as well as high-quality; what is more, EFL students can learn for real about academic writing, corporate English, and adapting a proper register to the situation they will eventually face in real life.

Quick Visuals with Impact

Sometimes projects take good timing from our students and class, especially when it is time to present or socialize them. Now there are online and friendly-user generators that design visuals in just a matter of seconds. Also known as DALL-E, these text-to-image models work just by entering prompts.

BING IMAGE CREATOR is a very professional example powered by Microsoft. It creates best when you write descriptively. So, students just need to be creative and add details: adjectives, locations, and even art styles. Images created come in handy for presentations and speaking activities as pictures can come up in professional, surprising, and thought-provoking ways. If you are teaching business English or one of your projects is a business idea or event, LOOKA is quite practical. It combines design preferences with AI to make neat logos and slogans free of watermarks. Last, CANVA added in October MAGIC STUDIO, which is basically an AI that assists designers in creating custom, on-brand, and attention-grabbing content in seconds. In just one platform, text and images can be generated, and even videos can be edited in an instant. The first couple of times, it takes a bit of time in class to use these apps and platforms, but once students get it, they even start using it on their own.

Dynamize Lesson Planning and Assessment

Lesson Planning and assessment is an everyday job that requires proper observation, guidance, and creativity; particularly in demanding and challenging environments like ours. TEACHER-TOOLS.AI comes with three amazing tools. The first one is to generate multiple-choice tests just by entering a topic and age group. Quizzes have always been a good option to put our students on the test, literally. What takes time is creating them but with this saving-time tool, they can be easily adapted

onto Google Forms, WordWall, Quizziz, and Kahhot. The second and third features allow you to create a script for a lesson taught by a celebrity, or a debate with any avatar you choose; both scripts can be copy-pasted and heard out loud, therefore, they can be used as listening or reading input. AI QUIZ MAKER is another website that gives you the chance to paste any text and generate a 4 multiple-choice interactive text that students can take just by clicking on its weblink. Last, but not least, KAHOOT and QUIZZIZ now work likewise, they generate brand-new interactive quizzes made out of existing files (DOC, PDF, PPT, YouTube Video). In a nutshell, it is all about using our knowledge and skills sensibly to make this tool run smoothly since all of the questions and text created need to be checked for accuracy and appropriateness.

Chatbots

Although ChatGPT can be used as an interactive chatbot to practice English, there are two other options to resort to. On one hand, there is HELLO HISTORY, which is an app that empowers its users to chat with historical figures, ideal for advanced students and classes that use history as a means to build inspiration and knowledge: although it comes just with 20 messages, they are reset once the app is de-installed. On the other hand, KUKI, which was originally designed for the Metaverse, is a

bot that allows you to start and keep basic interaction. Its work is still in development, but its intelligence includes the ability to reason with specific objects. However, depending on the complexity of the interaction, sometimes the talk gets stuck. Motivating, yet lacking that human touch, these resources wisely used are simply mind-blowing.

I hope you have enjoyed this follow-up article on AI: Opportunities and Challenges, it is meant to be a more to-do guide, or a bank of ideas to get inspiration from. Having experienced the most recent leap forward AI things can speed up in the snap of a finger. Let your 2024 be full of sparkle and creativity so that your students enjoy first-hand the human and warmth connection machines are still figuring out.

Online Resources Consulted

AI Quiz Maker:
https://www.fillout.com/ai-quiz-maker

Bing Image Creator:
https://www.bing.com/create

Canva:
https://www.canva.com/magic/

Curipod:
https://curipod.com/

Google Workspace Labs:
https://workspace.google.com/blog/product-announcements/generative-ai

Hello History:
https://www.hellohistory.ai/

Kahoot:
https://support.kahoot.com/hc/en-us/articles/17152945038355-How-to-use-Kahoot-AI-Question-generator

Kuki:
https://chat.kuki.ai/chat

Looka:
https://looka.com/

Quizziz:
https://quizizz.com/home/quizizz-ai

Teacher Tools AI:
https://teacher-tools.ai/sample-tools

What Else is News?

X-MAS MEDIATIONS

Get into the festive spirit with our Christmas-themed mediations!

'Tis the season to bring some holiday cheer into your classes! Explore our catalog of Christmas-themed mediations designed to add a sprinkle of joy, culture and learning to your lessons in **December**. From writing Christmas letters to creating cards and ornaments, making a Christmas dessert, and discovering bizarre Christmas celebrations around the world, we've got a sleigh-full of engaging activities to make this holiday season merry and bright for your AEP and KTP students.

Find and book mediations here

A Call For an Adventure!

By Johanna Medina Quiasua, KTP teacher

One day, I was invited to join the reading club, and I accepted with commitment, but also with doubts about whether I could create a welcoming space. It was a transition from being just a teacher to exploring an uncharted territory. This wouldn't be the familiar Reading Corner I knew, only for kids. This space needed to be recognized as a Reading Club, an inclusive space where not only kids, but also pre-teens and teens could participate. My goal was to create a free reading space with engaging activities.

As I celebrate my first year in this club, it has become an oasis amidst my daily routines. We, as members of the club, see ourselves as part of a team that reviews, analyzes, loves, hates, and learns from different stories while improving our reading skills. We have become actors and storytellers, designers and editors of stories. We have played and laughed wholeheartedly, forgetting that we are in a library and immersing ourselves in thrilling adventures.
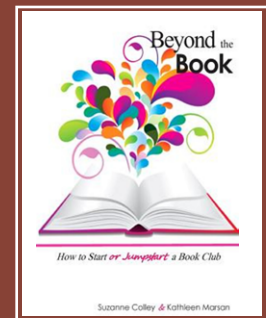
You may ask in which library those adventures happen! Well, as the jewel of the crown, it is the Centro Colombo Americano Library. A world where you can dive and find a comfortable zone to read, imagine and fall in love with different reading styles. Our CCA library releases challenges every month for readers to accept at the reading clubs. The Library Team selects masterpieces of literature for us to enjoy and gently guides us through different experiences.

We had a comic book celebration, where our superheroes took center stage, and then we discovered Halloween stories, where witches and ghouls invited us to dance. I've discovered that the more my students read, the more fluency and better comprehension of the language they develop. Our library doesn't just gather students; it welcomes families. When we enter the library, we can feel the love for books from even the little ones who can barely walk but are already touching and reading with their parents or grandparents. There are books everywhere, sparking curiosity for learning.
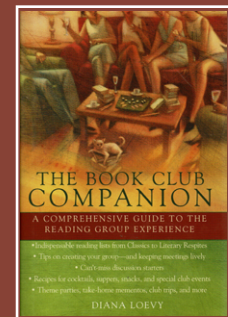
In the Teens Reading Club, we rediscover our inner child by reading aloud and performing different voices, diving deep into the worlds we explore through books. In the Kids and Pre-teens Reading Club, they have awakened my own inner child. Together, we have discovered that we all have a voice with volume buttons (don't tell anyone... they're hidden in your chest). When you press that button, your voice can go up or down. It's not a class; it's an opportunity to free your mind, be yourself, and fill yourself with joy. We run, play, laugh, and even play pranks. We let our souls disguise themselves as the characters we read about. Time flies by, and we must leave each session. But it's not a farewell; it's a promise that more adventures await us every Saturday in our Reading Club, reminding us that we are alive! What a precious treasure I have found in my Reading Club.
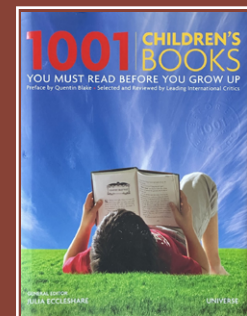
Prepare your Book Club

Your **Colombo Library,** always trying to help our teachers prepare their readings and activities for their Reading Clubs, created a list where you can look up ideas and titles to improve your experience.

Beyond the book: how to start or jumpstart a book club. *Colley, Suzanne*

The book club companion : a comprehensive guide to the reading group experience. *Loevy, Diana*

1001 children's books you must read before you grow up. *Eccleshare, Julia*

Find all the recommended titles here

We have a new Alumni Mediator!

Meet Sofía Maldonado

When considering learning a new language, our thoughts often turn to culture, arts, lifestyles, customs, traditions, and even cuisine. These elements collectively define our identity as human beings and influence our perception of the world. As an avid knowledge seeker, I have always been fascinated by gaining a deeper understanding of people, and music, as a language, has played a significant role in facilitating that connection (yes, I play the saxophone and sing!). Discovering various ways to engage with people has been a personal goal, one that I am eager to continue pursuing.

The field of human sciences provides me with the perfect platform for this goal. That is why I decided to study English Philology and Anthropology at National University, aspiring to become an interpreter and translator. Over the past three years, I have dedicated myself to assisting individuals in their native language as a medical interpreter. The university has also granted me the opportunity to work with different Indigenous communities such as the Nasa and Arawak in various ethnolinguistic and ethno-educational projects, in both English and Spanish. This experience has led me to confirm that communicating with others in their mother tongue enables us to forge a more profound connection, delving into their aspirations, dreams, fears, challenges, and gaining insight into their unique perspectives on life.

Now, and since I was a practitioner and a KTP Teacher at the Colombo, I am driven to assist others in learning English so they can continue seeking connections with those worldwide who use English as their gateway to understand the world we live in. As the new Alumni mediator, I have the chance to contribute to making our students' dreams come true from a different perspective, putting my expertise in research, community-based learning, and linguistics to the service of others.

Stay tuned for the upcoming mediations!

Should you need anything you can reach me at, lmaldonado@colombobogota.edu.co 302 470 3703

Hugs and blessings everybody!

Featured Article

Multimodality:
Communication Skills for Today's Generation OUP Focus Paper

Discover why learners need to be able to use videos, images, and other forms of multimedia if they want to become literate. Check out this focus paper brought to us by **Oxford University Press**

Read the complete article here

Our experts advise on

MULTIMODALITY IN ELT

COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR TODAY'S GENERATION

elt NOTES!

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Graphic Design and photography
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