

Lesson Plan | Middle School

Generative AI

Lesson Goal:

Students will learn how generative AI can help them be creative and funny while using the tool in an ethical way.

Estimated Time:

20-30 minutes

Materials and Resources:

Partner with your school's library media specialist, technology team, and administrators to determine if there is a Generative AI platform that you can demonstrate in your classroom or even be granted permission for students to use under your supervision. Be sure to include student and teacher data privacy considerations before selecting the tool.

Activity Procedure:

1. **Journal Prompt Hook:** Help students understand the difference between experiencing joy in a group and experiencing joy at someone else's expense. This will help them consider empathy when making decisions for how they might use generative AI later in the lesson. Ask students to journal about these 2 questions:

- What does it feel like when you tell a funny story, and everyone laughs?
- What does it feel like when someone tells a story about a mistake that you made, and everyone laughs at you?

2. **Opening Discussion:** In small groups of 2-3, students can use a turn-and-talk style conversation to share their answers with one another. Ask each pair/small group to share something from their conversation in a larger class share-out.

3. **Define Generative AI:** Tell your students: "Generative AI is a technology that can create text, images, sounds, and other media that traditionally could only be created by humans."

- Allow students to wonder and brainstorm. Ask, "What do you think adults might be using generative AI to create for them?" Keep a list on the board as they share their ideas.
- Next, ask students to connect the hook exercise to generative AI by asking, "Do you think generative AI could make up funny stories or funny jokes? Can computers be funny?"

4. How to Create Great Generative AI Prompts: Next, students will draft prompts for generative AI to create funny jokes.

- Whole Class: Using the criteria below, you could model how to create a high-quality generative AI prompt with the class as a whole. As you draft the prompt together, bring up the hook activity and how the joke you are prompting needs to be funny, but not at the expense of any person or group. Give students these criteria for high-quality generative AI prompts:
 - *Clearly state what the output of the prompt should be.* (In this case, the desired output will be a funny joke.)
 - *Include the intended audience for the output.* (For your students, audience examples might be their peers or their parents.)
 - *Add details that build in personality or customization for the output.* (If students like sports, they could request a joke about athletes or referees. If they enjoy cooking, they could prompt for a joke about weird ingredients for a cake. The ideas they add here will help build in their own creative flare.)
- Student Groups: Have students work in their pairs/small groups to draft their own generative AI prompts for jokes. The teacher should circulate and help encourage groups that are stuck, make suggestions or edits for groups that might be off target.

5. Test Generative AI:

- Option 1: If your school has not approved the use of a generative AI platform, have students draft the questions they would type into a generative AI tool to help them make progress toward their goal. If the teacher is comfortable, they can demonstrate those prompts in front of the class on their teacher device using a generative AI platform.
- Option 2: If your school has approved the use of a generative AI platform, have students try out some prompts. How many tries does it take for them to get the information or ideas they need? What did they learn about crafting prompts for generative AI?

6. Final Reflection and Discussion:

- Exit Ticket Questions for Students:
 - What did you learn about generative AI today?
 - What criteria make an AI prompt high quality?
 - What must you do/not do when using AI to respect others?

Extension to Parents:

Share what your students learned and encourage parents to reinforce these concepts at home. See saferinternetday.us/lesson-plans (<http://bit.ly/2Y84vgF>) for a suggested email template you can adapt.



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