

From Product to Process and Back Again: Rethinking Writing and AI

Understanding and Teaching the Product/Process Paradigm in the Age of AI

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Why This Matters

Changing Landscape

AI is transforming our understanding of creativity, authorship, and assessment.

Shared Tension

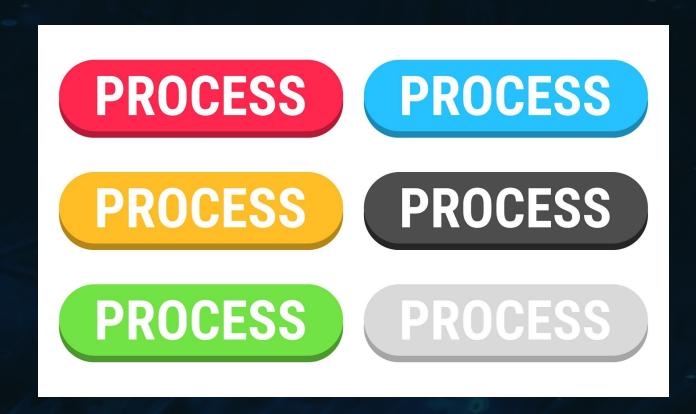
Writing instruction and AI both wrestle with the product vs. process dynamic.

Our Purpose

We'll explore this paradigm shift and offer practical teaching applications.

What is Product and Process?

Original Product



drop your response in the chat!

Defining Product and Process

Product

- Outcomes
- Objectives
- The final output
- Focused on correctness, structure, and style

Process

- Learning
- Engagement
- Journey of creating text: planning, drafting, revising, and reflecting
- Emphasis on world orientation

Writing Instruction Shift



Traditional Approach

Focus on grammar rules, structure, and correctness. Product-centered.



Process Revolution

1970s started emphasized writing as a process. Students learned through drafting.



Modern Hybrid

Process-oriented teaching but product-based assessment.



How AI Mirrors This Tension



Quick Results

AI produces polished text instantly



Process Bypassing

Students skip planning and revision

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Product Fixation

Focus shifts to output, not learning

Why the Process Still Matters

Critical Thinking

Develops analytical skills beyond writing

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Reflection

Builds metacognitive

awareness

Transferable Skills

Extends to other academic contexts

Ownership

Creates personal investment

in ideas



Teaching the Product/ Process Paradigm

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Compare Examples

Analyze AI-generated and human-drafted texts side by side.

Scaffold Writing

Guide students through outline, draft, AI revision/suggestion, and reflection.

Ask Metacognitive Questions

Prompt students to explain their choices throughout.

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Concrete Strategies in the Classroom

- Model AI Revision

 Human created draft, then improving with AI insights.
- Analyze Differences
 Compare AI outputs with peer-written drafts.
- Document Process

 Write process notes about AI usage in assignments.
- Facilitate Discussion
 Explore what's gained and lost when using AI tools.

Ethical Use and Framing AI



Promote Transparency

Encourage disclosure of creation methods



Set Clear Boundaries

Define AI as tool, not replacement



Foster Ethical Awareness

Develop reflective practices around AI use

AI as a Partner in Process

- Brainstorming Support
 AI generates multiple topic ideas and
 explores many perspectives quickly.
- Editing and Clarity
 AI identify unclear passages and suggests improvements.

- Generating Counterarguments
 AI helps students consider opposing or
 diverse viewpoints.
- Summarizing Feedback
 AI distills complex critiques into
 actionable improvements.

And more!

Considerations

- Atypical assignments (podcasts, videos, etc.)
- Utilize technology and AI
- Demonstrate AI's faults and benefits
- Synthesize and Connect sources to larger issues
- Have student explain decisions (process/product)



Tell students what to expect!

What's Worked for You?

- Papers?
- Podcasts?
- Projects?
- Groups?
- Collaborative work?
- Multimedia?
- Videos?
- Music?
- Art?



drop your response in the chat!

Final Thoughts

Symbiotic Relationship: Product and process inform each other in meaningful ways.

Mindful Learning: Creates reflective, adaptable writers and scholars.

Effective AI Integration: Enhances the writing process as a collaborative tool.

Ongoing Conversation: Continuously reimagine writing pedagogy.

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Thank You!

Questions?

Scan this QR code to connect or follow up with questions about integrating AI into your writing pedagogy.

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