



When AI Can Do the Assignment: Designing for Learning That Still Matters

February 11, 2026

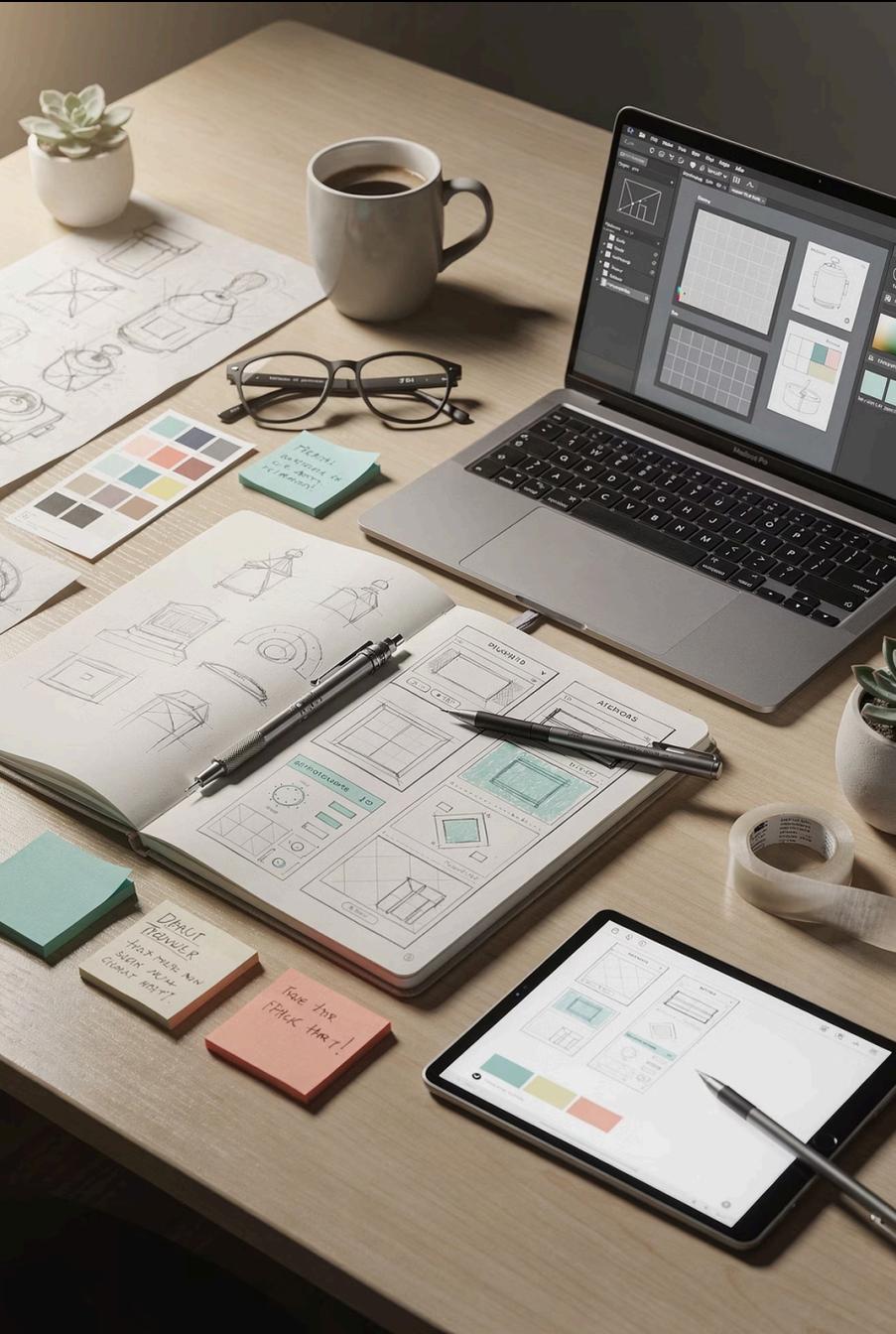
Faculty Development for Student Success Center

The Problem

You can't out-detect AI.

Detection tools are unreliable, biased, and easily bypassed.

And they keep us policing instead of teaching.



The Shift

From:

"How do I catch them?"

To:

"How do I design around it?"

You can't out-detect AI.
You can **out-design** it.

What We'll Do Today



Learn 5 design principles
for AI-resistant
assignments



See before/after
examples from across
disciplines



Use AI to help you
redesign an assignment
you can use this semester



Design Principle 1

Process Over Product

Require drafts, reflections, or documentation of thinking.

AI can produce a final product. It can't fake a messy process.



Design Principle 2

Local and Personal Context

Tie assignments to class discussions, course materials, or personal experience.

AI doesn't know what happened in your class on Tuesday.

Design Principle 3

Metacognition and Explanation

Ask students to explain their choices, not just make them.

"Why did you structure it this way?" is hard to fake.





Design Principle 4

Iteration with Feedback

Build in checkpoints where you respond and they revise.

AI can generate. It can't incorporate your specific feedback over time.

Design Principle 5

AI as a Visible Tool

Make AI part of the assignment instead of pretending it doesn't exist.

"Generate a draft with AI, then critique and improve it – submit both."



Quick Check

Which of these principles could work for an assignment you're teaching this semester?

Drop your answer in the chat.

Examples Across Disciplines

I'm dropping four before/after examples in the chat:

Discussion Post

(Communication)

Reflection

(Education)

Coding Assignment

(Computer Science)

Problem Set

(Organic Chemistry)

Let's look at one together.

The Prompt Template

Tell AI:

Your original assignment

The task or instructions you gave students.

What you actually want students to learn

The core objectives and skills you want to foster.

The five design principles

The principles we've discussed for effective learning.

Your constraints (class size, format, etc.)

Practical limitations that influence your assignment design.

Revise this using 2-3 of these principles.

[Full template in the handout I'm dropping in chat]

Tips for Working with AI

Be specific about learning goals

Focus on the skill, not just the task.

Push back

"This adds too much grading. Simplify."

Ask for options

"Give me three ways to add metacognition."

Iterate

"Part 2 still feels fakeable. Strengthen it."

Useful Follow-Up Prompts

"How would a student use AI to cheat on this? Now close that loophole."

"I teach 150 students. Which elements will scale?"

"My students resist reflective writing. Make it feel less like busywork."



Workshop Time

Option A: Use the prompt template with AI right now

Option B: Work through it on paper

Bring out an assignment you're worried about – or use a sample from the chat.

You have 15 minutes. I'll give a 2-minute warning.

Workshop Prompts

01

What's the current assignment?

02

What do you actually want students to learn?

03

Where is it vulnerable to AI?

04

Which design principle(s) could strengthen it?

Design Principles – Reference

▮ Process over product

▮ Local/personal context

▮ Metacognition and explanation

▮ Iteration with feedback

▮ AI as a visible tool

Pair Share

In your breakout room (5 minutes):

01

Share your original and your redesign idea (1 min each)

02

Partner asks: "Could AI still game this? What's the weakest point?"

03

Switch.

Debrief

What's one revision you're excited to try?



What question came up?

Remember

You don't have to redesign everything.

Start with one assignment.



What's Next

SESSION 3: MARCH 18

Beyond Productivity: AI for the Reflective Teacher-Scholar

This session explores how AI can help teacher-scholars deepen their understanding of teaching, moving beyond simple automation. We'll focus on assessment, learning patterns, and reflective routines to advance scholarship projects, gaining clarity and focusing on what truly matters.

Resources

[Design principles handout \(PDF\)](#)

[Sample redesigned assignments](#)

[AI Prompt template handout](#)

Questions?

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Session recording, slides, and resources will be available in 48 hours on our website:

www.jsums.edu/scholars