Understanding Generative AI

A GUIDED ACTIVITY
FOR TWEENS/TEENS

Your generation has had a lot of experience with technology and the ever-changing information landscape. This fast-paced digital environment has required you to be flexible, comfortable with change, and prepared to learn new skills every day.

But don't forget!

- New tools and technological advancements require a critical eye and an open mind.
- Every new technology comes with both advantages and disadvantages.
- You should always ask questions and dive deeper into the what, how, and why of each new tool.

Let's talk about generative AI.

Roblox and generative AI

Roblox is a platform for immersive connection and communication. Our goal is to build the safest and most civil online platform, where everyone is empowered to connect, create, and thrive. And now there are exciting new GenAI features and tools that empower even more people to easily create and share on Roblox. GenAI is used in a number of ways on Roblox, from making creation faster and easier to supporting moderation (including text chat, immersive voice communication, images, and 3D models or meshes).

GenAI is, plainly, artificial intelligence that *generates* content (e.g., text, images, video, and audio). Websites or apps that rely on artificial intelligence allow users to input a prompt that instructs the artificial intelligence what to generate, and then the website or app creates content accordingly. Some GenAI websites can also respond to feedback about what they have generated, allowing users to adjust or revise the content output.

What do you need to know about GenAI?

- GenAI is trained by humans to take in already-existing data and create new content.
- GenAI takes in massive amounts of text or other data, looks for patterns, learns them, and then creates outputs.
- GenAI can only use the information available to it when it is trained.

What's great about GenAI?

- It can be easy and fun to use.
- It can increase efficiency and productivity.
- It can generate new, innovative ideas.
- It can help brainstorm ideas and give feedback on work.

What's not so great about GenAI?

- Content generated by GenAI can be misleading, incorrect, and biased. (Check the information for accuracy.)
- Not everyone that is using GenAI is using it for good. (Keep an eye out for bad actors and scams.)
- Students can be tempted to use GenAI to actually do their work for them as opposed to using it to enhance their work. (Learn what guidelines your school has about GenAI usage.)

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Importance of media literacy when exploring new technology

What limitations does GenAI have? What else do you want to know about GenAI? What do you wish adults in your life knew about GenAI? These are examples of important questions you can ask to dive a little deeper into your understanding of GenAI and how we use the technology in our lives. In general, consistently asking questions is a great way to build media literacy skills.

Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication. These skills are necessary to thrive in today's complex world. We are all consumers and producers of information on a daily basis, so we need to be equipped with the skills we need to participate productively in society.

While GenAI might be more advanced than other technologies we are used to, a lot of the same media literacy questions can be asked about the content created from the use of GenAI.
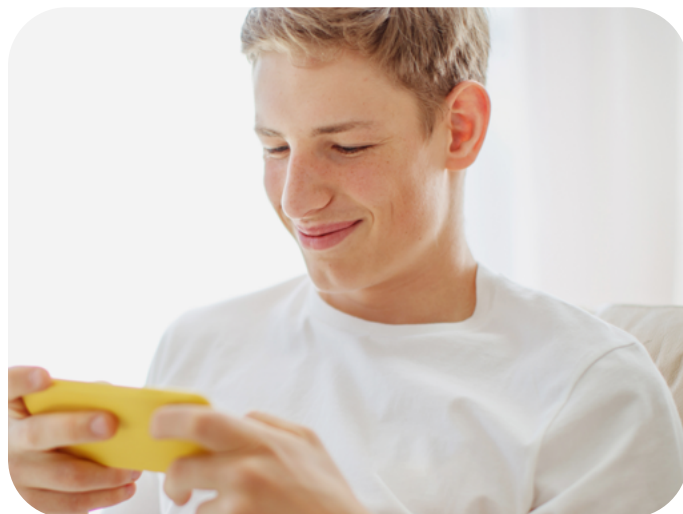
For example:

- What are the sources of information, ideas, or assertions?

- How credible is this? (And how do you know?)

- How does this make me feel?

- How do my emotions influence my interpretation of this?

- How might different people understand this message differently?

- What is left out that might be important to know?

Thinking about the credibility of content generated is really important because GenAI tools may take in swaths of data that are not necessarily fact-checked. You should be careful about the amount of false information available that GenAI might collect. You also want to be vigilant about using your critical thinking skills to spot fakes and scams. Make sure to double-check and confirm information – especially if you are using it for a factual school assignment.

Here are some other questions to ask yourself while using GenAI tools.

- Was your prompt effective? Did you get the information you needed?

- What other prompts could you enter to give you even more information?

- How can I assess the bias in the information?

- For visuals, did the generative AI output look like what you expected it to look like?

- Did you learn something new about the limitations or possibilities of GenAI?

- How did the tool help you realize your vision?

Honing media literacy skills while using generative AI

You always want to focus on the "why" of using a GenAI tool. What is your purpose for using it? Is it to help you brainstorm a writing assignment? Do you want feedback on something you are working on? Are you trying to write a funny poem for your mom for her birthday? Your first prompt for the tool is super important so the more specific you can be, the better.

Let's try it.

Prompt #1:
Can you write a haiku for my mom's birthday card?

Response:

> **Of course! Here's a haiku for your mom's birthday card:**
>
> **In your warm embrace,**
> **Love blossoms with each heartbeat,**
> **Mother, forever.**

Reflection questions:
Was the response what you wanted? Anything you would like to change? Should your prompt have been more specific? What assumptions did the tool make about the tone and spirit of the haiku?

Prompt #2:
My mom is very funny. Can you make the haiku funnier?

Response:

> **Certainly! Here's a funnier haiku for your mom's birthday card:**
>
> **Laughs fill the air, Mom.**
> **Jokes dance in your lively eyes,**
> **Forever young, wow!**

Reflection questions:
Did the tool give you what you want? If not, is there anything you could add to the prompt to help? Or do you want to change directions? Are you noticing anything about the limitations of the tool?

Prompt #3:
My mom loves dogs and baseball. Can you write a funny haiku with dogs and baseball for her?

Response:

> **Absolutely! Here's a funny haiku combining your mom's love for dogs and baseball:**
>
> **Bases loaded, woof!**
> **Fido catches every ball,**
> **Mom's MVP pup.**

Reflection questions:
Now that you have given it a few options, are you finding the tool effective? What do you notice about the way in which the tool is responding to your prompts?

Visual-based GenAI tools can be really innovative and fun to play around with. Let's try another prompt to assess the effectiveness and limitations of the tool.

Prompt #1:
Create an underwater coral reef with a rainbow octopus.

Response:

Reflection questions:
Did the GenAI output look like what you expected it to look like? If not, what could you do to enhance your prompt?

Prompt #2:
Underwater coral reef with a rainbow octopus, rainbow-colored entire body, small rainbow octopi in the background, vivid and vibrant, high res, digital painting, colorful, fantasy, surreal, vibrant lighting, underwater setting, detailed tentacles

Response:

Reflection questions:
Did the new prompt help realize your vision? Are you surprised with how the tool translates the prompt into an image? What's missing from the prompt? Did the tool add anything you didn't ask for?

Prompt #3:
Playful cartoonish rainbow octopuses in underwater coral reef, vibrant and colorful, high quality, cartoon style, playful atmosphere

Response:

Reflection questions:
What are the consistencies between the generated content? The differences? Are there any oddities in the images the tool is creating? Is it getting you closer or further away from your vision?

Whether you are using GenAI to help with homework or inspire artwork, you want to always remember to pause and ask questions as you go. Powerful tech tools require us to think deeply about their purpose, their benefits, and their disadvantages. Reflection is a key part of being a media literate person, and it will help you be a thoughtful consumer and creator of content today and in the future.

You might find it beneficial to walk through this guide with the adults in your life so that they too gain understanding of GenAI tools. Also, let them know about [this resource](#) we created for them to help them navigate generative AI.

About NAMLE

The National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) has been dedicated to advancing media literacy education since 1997. Now the largest media literacy membership organization around the globe, NAMLE unites a community of educators who help expand media literacy in both formal and informal learning environments. The NAMLE vision is to help individuals of all ages develop the habits of inquiry and skills of expression that they need to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, and active citizens. For more information, please go to [namle.org](#).

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