AI and Educators:
5 Steps to Take Now

October 19, 2023

Think CERCA™

Think Netflix for Literacy

ThinkCERCA for Tier 2

Classes | Library | Assessments | Reports | Resources

Ana Torres

Core ELAR | ThinkCERCA | Direct Instruction and Skills Practice | Browse

ThinkCERCA

Individual lessons to provide extension, enrichment, and support to the curriculum

Search Lessons by keyword, standards...

ELA ∨ | Grade 3 ∨

Lesson Spotlight (33)

View All

WRITING MODULES
School Policy

WRITING MODULES
Government Role in Healthy Eating

WRITING MODULES
Video Games

WRITING MODULES
Social Media

WRITING MODULES
The Role of Machines

TIER 1, 2, and 3

TIER 3

Intensive
Interventions

TIER 2

Targeted Interventions

TIER 1

Core Classroom Instruction and Curriculum

Foundational Literacy

Assessment and Core
Aligned Resources

Literacy
Across
Disciplines
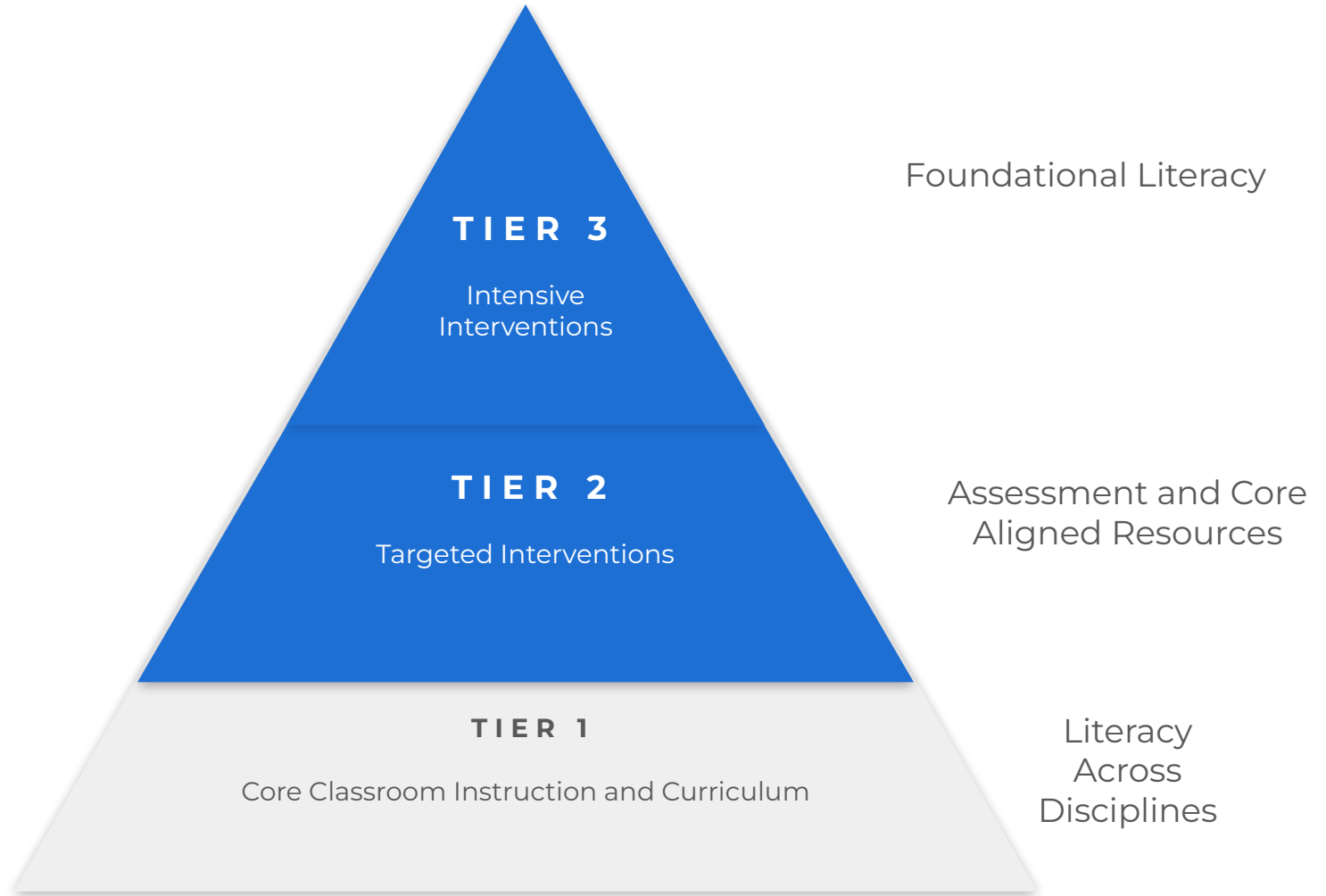
Presenters

Q McCallum
AI/ML Consultant, Writer, Researcher
ThinkCERCA

Michael S. Manley (MSM)
Chief Technology Officer
ThinkCERCA

Daniel Rivera
Technology Director
Georgia's 1st District RESA

Agenda

➜ Quick recap of our previous webinar: [ChatGPT in Education](#)

➜ **Five steps** you can take to improve your relationship with ChatGPT and similar AI tools

➜ A sneak peek at some of what ThinkCERCA is doing with AI

➜ Closing Out w/ Q&A

What We Talk About When We Talk About AI

What is AI?

Mathematical Modeling that can be used to:

- **Make predictions**.

- **Sort things into buckets** or group things together.

- **Recognize** things that **don't** fit patterns.

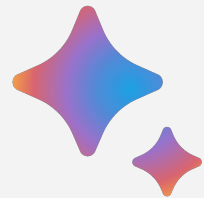Where this practice often goes off the rails: **bias in the data used to train the models**.

What is Generative AI?

Our story so far…

How We Got Here

7 ways to use ChatGPT at work to make your job easier

Analysis by **Jacob Zinkula and Aaron Mok**   Updated
Sep 3, 2023, 2:49 PM CDT

MOTHERBOARD
TECH BY VICE

'Overemployed' Hustlers Exploit ChatGPT To Take On Even More Full-Time Jobs

"CHATGPT DOES LIKE 80 PERCENT OF MY JOB IF I'M BEING HONEST."

Where We Are Now

Detecting AI may be impossible. That's a big problem for teachers.
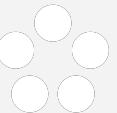
Turnitin has acknowledged a reliability problem with Ai cheating-detection software used on 38 million student papers. Computer scientists warn we may never be able to reliably detect AI.

Analysis by Geoffrey A. Fowler
Columnist | + Follow

June 2, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. EDT

A Point on Ethics

- **Everyone will be tempted to take the easy route**
- **AI is sweet sweet sugar... and we could become mental diabetics**
- **Honest Reflection:**
  - **Do you want to grow?**
  - **Are you claiming this is your work?**
- **If Yes, don't use A.I., or at least admit it**
- **From Creator to Director**

Get Curious

Artificial intelligence can respond intelligently to human prompts — but it is up to humans to create those prompts. By empowering more productive acts of creation, AI elevates the importance of curiosity. In the future, it will be increasingly important for students — for all people — to be able to identify and ask interesting, important questions.

Consequently, **inquiry-oriented practices** — practices that promote the development of curiosity by getting students to ask more of the questions and allowing them to pursue their own wonderings in the context of authentic investigations — will become increasingly important.

Source: *Van Andel Institute*

Asking Good Questions

My mother made me a scientist without ever intending to. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school: So? Did you learn anything today? But not my mother.

"Izzy," she would say, *"did you ask a good question today?"*

That difference — asking good questions — made me become a scientist.

-- Isidor Isaac Rabi - Nobel laureate & physicist.

Apathy

APATHY

whatever - add your own Sub-text

Lessons from *Star Wars*

Apathy

- Fuels the "Dark Side"

- Quick, easy way out

- Short Term

- AI as a quick fix

- Cheats you of thought & growth

Curiosity

- Fuels the "Light Side"

- Harder path

- Long Term

- AI as a tool for learning

- Encourages thinking & growth

5 Steps You Can Take Now

1. Opt Out of the Arms Race

A STRANGE GAME.
THE ONLY WINNING MOVE IS
NOT TO PLAY.

Your Students are *Solution Seekers*

The AI Detection Arms Race Is On

And college students are developing the weapons, quickly building tools that identify AI-generated text—and tools to evade detection.

The AI detection tools are ... not so good

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ADVENTURES IN 21ST-CENTURY WRITING —

OpenAI confirms that AI writing detectors don't work

No detectors "reliably distinguish between AI-generated and human-generated content."

BENJ EDWARDS - SEP 8, 2023 3:42 PM UTC

2. *Compare and Contrast*

🔖 **Potential identifying characteristics**

We expect to see certain characteristics in a student writer's original response to a ThinkCERCA prompt, which makes an AI-generated response quite distinctive.

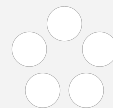| Characteristic	Student-generated work	AI-generated work
Evidence	The writer incorporates quotes, details, references, or statistics drawn from one or both ThinkCERCA texts, possibly with the addition of personal experiences or common knowledge.	Little to no specific evidence about the topic is included. If evidence is included, it generally cannot be found in ThinkCERCA texts, and if it can, the evidence is more detailed than the source material provided. Most likely, the body includes complex, detailed reasons and reasoning with little supporting evidence.
Syntax	Student syntax will include primarily simple or compound sentences, depending on student grade-level and skill development. Sentences tend to start in repetitive ways. Errors in capitalization, spelling, and sentence structure (e.g. fragments) are common, with almost every response including errors of some kind.	Syntax is generally quite advanced, with sentences properly using multiple commas linking the independent clause with multiple subordinate clauses, participial phrases, or other structures. Sentences have varied beginnings, frequently starting with adverbs, adjectives, or participles. Items in lists generally come in threes and are usually fairly lengthy (e.g. verb phrases) but 100% properly used. Errors are not usually found in the text..
Diction	While expectations for diction vary based on grade level, the general vocabulary of an elementary, middle, or high school student is fairly basic, and	AI has all of English vocabulary at its disposal, and it uses–or shall we say, it *utilizes*–relatively advanced words throughout its responses. While a student may occasionally use the

3. Learn More about AI

From Our Speakers:
- Daniel Rivera: https://tiny.cc/aioverview
- Q McCallum: https://qethanm.cc/tags/data-literacy/

Other Resources:
- The Office of Educational Technology:
 https://tech.ed.gov/ai/
- The State of AI: https://www.stateof.ai/

3. Learn More about AI

- **AI Wastes Water:** A.I. tools fueled a 34% spike in Microsoft's water consumption, and one city with its data centers is concerned about the effect on residential supply https://fortune.com/2023/09/09/ai-chatgpt-usage-fuels-spike-in-microsoft-water-consumption/
- **AI Wastes Electricity:** Powering AI could use as much electricity as a small country https://techxplore.com/news/2023-10-powering-ai-electricity-small-country.html
- **AI Wastes Money:** So far, AI hasn't been profitable for Big Tech https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2023/10/so-far-ai-hasnt-been-profitable-for-big-tech/
- **AI May Waste Time:** 'Overhyped' generative AI will get a 'cold shower' in 2024, analysts predict https://www.cnbc.com/2023/10/10/generative-ai-will-get-a-cold-shower-in-2024-analysts-predict.html
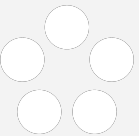
3. Learn More about AI

- Learn as much about AI as you can - beyond text

- PLAY and break it. Be creative.

- Use it to save you time on tedious things

- Use it to learn … everything

- Consider long-term implications
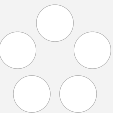
4. *Develop In-Class Uses for LLMs*

Sources for Ideas:

- Harvard Business School: Student Use Cases

- Common Sense Media: Lessons and Tools for Teaching

You are a 7th grade student studying Shirley Jackson's short story, "The Lottery." You have been asked by the teacher to write an argumentative essay with the prompt, "Analyze the commentary Shirley Jackson makes on society and human behavior through the story of "The Lottery." Use details from the text to explain why everyone in the town chooses to participate year after year." Draft that essay.

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Worked Examples

You are a 7th grade student studying Shirley Jackson's short story, "The Lottery." You have been asked by the teacher to write an argumentative essay with the prompt, "Analyze the commentary Shirley Jackson makes on society and human behavior through the story of "The Lottery." Use details from the text to explain why everyone in the town chooses to participate year after year." Draft that essay.

View other drafts

Draft 1
Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery": A Commentary on Society and Human Behavior

In her short story "The Lottery," Shirley Jackson

Draft 2
Argumentative Essay: Shirley Jackson's Commentary on Society and Human Conformity in "The Lottery"

Draft 3
Shirley Jackson's commentary on society and human behavior in "The Lottery"

In her short story "The Lottery," Shirley Jackson

Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery": A Commentary on Society and Human Behavior

In her short story "The Lottery," Shirley Jackson makes a powerful commentary on society and human behavior. Through the story of a seemingly idyllic town that engages in a yearly ritual of stoning someone to death, Jackson explores themes such as mob mentality, blind conformity, and the capacity for violence that exists within all of us.

One of the most striking things about the story is that everyone in the town chooses to participate in the lottery, even though they all know that it is a cruel and barbaric act. This suggests that Jackson is making a broader point about the dangers of groupthink and the tendency of people to

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Worked Examples

First: It got something wrong:

- When Old Man Warner suggests that the lottery should be stopped, the other townspeople quickly dismiss him.

Second: It did something odd:

- Overall, Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" is a powerful and disturbing story that makes a 深刻的 commentary on society and human behavior.

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Translation Exercises

(Photo by Markus Krisetya on Unsplash)

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5. Be Open with the Students and Learn about AI.

(Photo by <u>Kenny Eliason</u> on <u>Unsplash</u>)
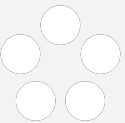
AI Strategy from AJ Juliani

➜ **RED** – NO A.I. to be used on this assignment. Assess YOUR knowledge/skill.

➜ **YELLOW** – Get permission to use A.I. Share chat logs, transparent assistance.

➜ **GREEN** – Encouraged to use A.I. on assignment. Use as a tutor, to learn from.

Build healthy "working relationship" with AI tools.

Sneak Peek

New Integrations

➜ We've already integrated Azure Immersive Reader, an AI-backed assistive technology that provides voice-overs for lesson materials, translation to multiple languages for both text and speech, highlighting tools for focusing reader attention, and parts-of-speech and dictionary support.

➜ We will soon be integrating AI-backed spelling and grammar checking tools into the writing experience across the platform.

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AI Backed Lesson Search

➜ We will soon be integrating AI-backed search into ThinkCERCA's lesson library of thousands of lessons, which will allow you to find the appropriate lesson content for your classroom using natural language.

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Automated Feedback on Student Writing

Q & A
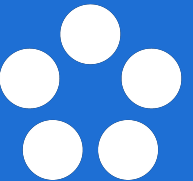
2x Reading Growth in a Year

As measured by the NWEA MAP assessment

ThinkCERCA

+6.29 pts

Expected Growth

3 pts

RiT Score Change

Year 1

An **independent, controlled study** of 26 ed-tech products by LEAP Innovations showed ThinkCERCA helped students achieve an extra year's worth of growth in one school year. Source: "Finding What Works: Results from the LEAP Innovations Pilot Network," 2014-2015.
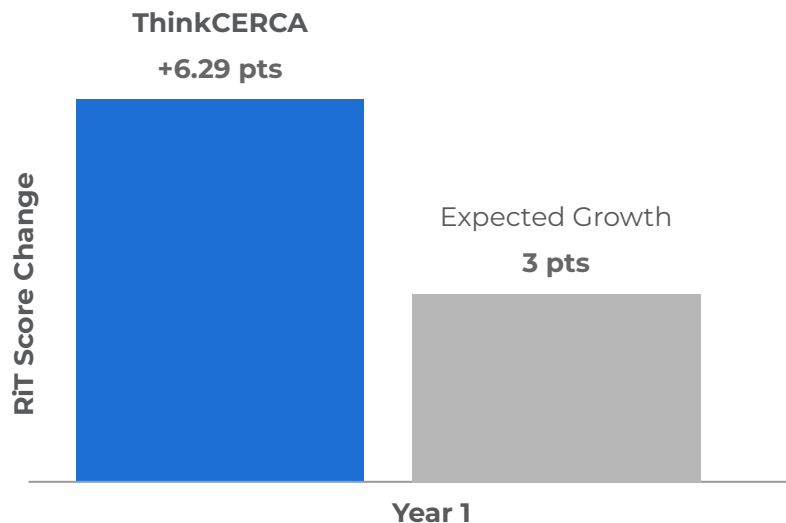
4x More Growth Than Competitors

Compared to the next highest performing product on NWEA MAP

RiT Score Change

ThinkCERCA

+6.29 pts

Next Highest
Performing
Product

+1.42 pts

Other Products
Evaluated

-3.32 pts

An **independent, controlled study** of 26 ed-tech products by LEAP Innovations showed ThinkCERCA helped students achieve an extra year's worth of growth in one school year. Source: "Finding What Works: Results from the LEAP Innovations Pilot Network," 2014-2015.

20% Gain in Writing Scores

(in as little as 8 weeks of ThinkCERCA usage)

Rubric Score

2

0

Control Students

ThinkCERCA Students

+20%

Score Increases by Writing Aspects

Conclusion
+24%

Relevance
+24%

Coherence
+19%

Language
+24%

Conventions
+24%

SRI Education

As part of the Gates Foundation Literacy Courseware Challenge Grant, an independent, controlled study found that elementary school students who used ThinkCERCA saw gains in their writing scores across all writing aspects. *Source: "Literacy Courseware Challenge Evaluation: Results of ThinkCERCA Participation," 2016.*

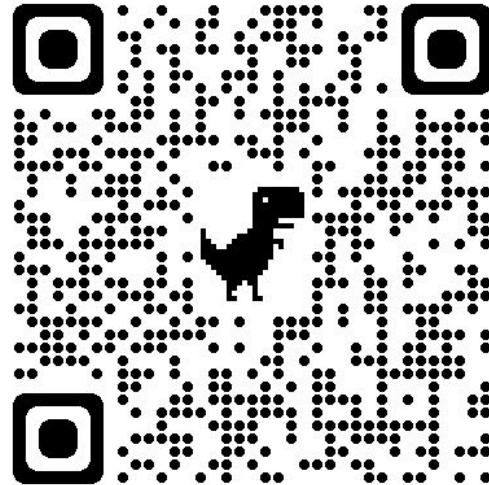# Get in touch!

Current Partners

Contact your School Success Manager.

New to ThinkCERCA?

Schedule a demo during a time that fits with your schedule.

ThinkCERCA'S One-Stop-Shop for Literacy

One Platform for Literacy

Eliminate Cost, Work as a Team, and Gain Actionable, Apples to Apples Insights on Student Learning

Benchmark Writing Assessments and Evaluation Services	Core English Language Arts/ Reading Curriculum	Tier 1 Reading and Writing Supplement Across Disciplines
Additional Leveled Reading Practice	Personalized Grammar and Skills Practice	Assessment Prep
Foundational Reading Skills and Tutoring Services		