

How Can I Use AI to Create Multimedia Teaching Materials?

Presented by:

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You will come away having a better understanding, I hope, of how to implement these AI tools in your teaching and specific ways that you can use AI to generate materials you use in the classroom.

One of the first ways that I think we can all use AI is in generating images. So, AI-generated images are something you can create with tools like Midjourney and DALL-E. Even Canva, the popular creation tool, has an AI component now that allows you to generate images based on text prompts.

So, if you haven't used this before, the idea is basically you give it a sentence that describes what it is you're looking for, with as much precision and specificity as you can manage. And the machine, the algorithm, interprets that human language using natural language processing, and understands what your intention is, what you're looking for, and provides you with an image, or actually a series of images you can choose from, that best, according to the algorithm, matches what you have in mind.

So if you are teaching something about medieval history and the role of classical music in that period, you can ask the AI to generate an image that shows a group of musicians playing in a medieval setting, in a particular context with particular instruments, in a particular setting, and you will get an image that you can then use in your own teaching that draws on those elements that you've included in your prompt.

Now, when you've generated that image² and these are free to generate with a variety of platforms² you can iterate on that image. You can say, actually, could you make it a little bit closer up, or could you include a clear background? Or you can give it other guidance to correct or adjust the image, which is something fundamentally different from how other image editing tools have worked historically, where you had to manage the pixels yourself, like with something like Photoshop, for example.

Now, you can use your natural language. You don't have to be a visual editor, or a photo editor, or a designer to make changes in the image. You can have an iterative dialogue and ask the AI to make adjustments to the image. In addition, you can choose among multiple images that are generated, or you can try different prompts, you can try different tools. If you've used Midjourney, you can try using DALL-E, or Canva, or other image-generating tools.

developing presentations a little bit easier, a little bit faster, and even more effective for you as an educator.

In addition to creating slides and generating images with AI, you can also use AI to generate audio and video. And in some cases, you may be an educator who doesn't want to appear onscreen, or you don't want to have your own voice recording an audio message. If that's the case, you can now use AI to essentially take a script and voice it, or you can even generate an avatar that will essentially read a set of instructions or give students a little update on something.

And the video avatar can essentially convey message in a visual way, in an engaging way, in a live way, that avoids you having to continually be in front of a camera recording that if that's not your comfortable place, or if you don't feel eager to continually record audio or video messages. Now, this isn't for everyone. Some people like recording their own audio and video messages, and if ten, or you don't

And in addition to giving you a transcript of the session, what these tools now do is they also give you a summary which you can provide to your students. And the summaries are quite high quality. I've tested each of these, and they are quite useful for students who have accessibility needs or who otherwise benefit from supplemental transcripts and summaries of class material. Maybe they haven't been able to attend all classes, or maybe they need to review something in a class.

This gives you a way of providing supplemental material that helps students without you having to do a lot of manual additional labor. So, these are time-saving devices. These are helpful for accessibility purposes. They're affordable, in some cases, free. And they're relatively easy to use.

So, you simply turn on the recording, much like you would turn on a Zoom recording or a recording of any other web platform. And in addition to the recording, you get a transcript and a summary. Some of the tools even let you mark highlights so that you can then refer later back to key moments in a live class, whether you're teaching in person, by the way, or online. You can make these recordings in either instance.

And these can be useful for individual meetings with students if they forget to take notes or if you want to make sure they refer back to what you talked about. They can be useful for really a variety of contexts, including meetings with colleagues, faculty meetings, as well as for live teaching sessions.

In conclusion, AI can be a great tool for us as educators in serving students and helping us create really great multimedia materials. It can help us create visuals. It can help us create diagrams, and presentations, and slides. It can also help us create audio and video materials that we share with students, and even transcripts of sessions that we lead as part of our teaching process.

So AI is a wide range of tools, encompasses so many different things that we can do for the benefit of our students. And it has several core benefits to us as educators. It's really a time-saving series of tools that help us to focus our attention on serving our students by being the creative humans that we are. We can allow the AI to do some of the more menial, technical tasks for us so we have time to meet with students, to design

creative, engaging, live lessons, and to devote ourselves to the creative aspects of teaching that brought us into this field in the first place.

So if you are someone who likes using multimedia tools, who benefits from engaging students through audio-visuals, I encourage you to explore the powerful set of tools that AI now gives us as educators. If you're interested in more on these tools, on these AI tools for generating multimedia, I encourage you to check out Wonder Tools, which is a newsletter that I write to help provide free guidance to educators and others on how we can make the most of AI tools. It's wondertools.substack.com. And I welcome your collaboration in future projects and look forward to hearing from you about how you use AI in your own teaching practice.

Thank you!

Please take our survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AI-teaching-material>