



Focus Group Questionnaire:

Understanding Perceptions and Use of AI in K-12 Education Using a Nationally Representative Sample

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Focus Group Script

Study Procedures

Virtual Focus Group

Before the focus group, participants will receive a Zoom link and an informed consent form via email. Participants will be asked to sign the informed consent form before participating in the study. On the day of the study, research team members will greet participants as they enter the “virtual” room. Next, the researcher will provide information about the study to participants and leave room for questions.

Introduction (Intro-Participant Introduction: 10 minutes)

Welcome, and thank you for being here today. Let me introduce myself. I am [name], and I will be one of the moderators of today’s focus group. I’d like to start by thanking each of you for taking the time to participate today. We’ll be here for about an hour and a half.

Purpose & Verbal Consent

We’ve brought you together to hear what you think about generative AI. We’d also like to know how you use AI in your life, what rules or tips you think could help you and your friends use AI smartly and safely, and how you see the importance of AI in the future. Everything you say is private; if you don’t want to answer a question, that’s fine. This session will be recorded to ensure we capture everyone’s views accurately.

Is everyone comfortable with this? [Participants can verbally agree or use the “thumbs up” icon on Zoom].

Guidelines

I’d like to go over some ground rules to allow our conversation to flow more freely.

- First, you can answer anything you want but don’t have to answer anything.
- When you do answer, please keep it to a minute or two and avoid talking over each other.
- You do not have to agree. In fact, disagreeing with each other can be super helpful in understanding different perspectives.
- This is a confidential discussion in that we will not report your names or who said what when discussing findings from this study. As a participant, please remember that what is said in this room should remain here.
- We don’t identify anyone by name in our findings. You will remain anonymous.

- We will record the sound from this meeting to help us in our transcription and analysis, but we will delete this information after analysis. The Research Team will secure all audio recordings on the Foundry10 server.
- We can provide summary details once the study is complete if you are interested.
- When you discuss specific tools, please mention them by name, and when you mean more generally, please describe what kinds of tools you mean.

Are there any questions?

PARENTS

Participant Introductions

Before we start, I'd like to know a little about each of you. Please tell me your name as well as the names and ages of your children and what type of schooling they are in.

Start of the Discussion (Discussion: 60-75 minutes)

[Note: Wait at least 15 seconds after asking a question to give participants time to respond. Use the probes/prompts only if no one speaks up or to get the discussion back on track].

[General Perception of Generative AI]

1. What comes to mind when you think of generative artificial intelligence (AI)?
 - a. What generative AI tools or applications are you familiar with?
 - b. [prompt when necessary] can you say more about what you mean by _____ tool (general vs. specific tool names)?
 - c. [if possible, connect to what we already know about this population]

[PROBES if Question 1 is light: General experience with generative AI (or AI more broadly)]

2. What's been your overall experience with AI in your life?
 - a. Can you think of a time that you used AI and it worked out well for you?
 - b. How about a time that you used it, and it didn't work out so well?
 - c. What kinds of applications do you hear other parents talking about?
 - d. How about your kids?
3. PROBE on some specific tools as mentioned in Question 2
 - a. What was it about _____ that made you think it might be interesting to try it?
 - b. For those of you who haven't used _____, what about it has kept you from it?

- c. What things possibly interest you or make you worried/uninterested after hearing _____'s story?

[Communication]

- 4. Have you heard your friends talking about AI with their kids?
- 5. Has anyone here talked with their kids about generative AI?
 - a. How did that come up (child-directed vs. parent-directed)?
 - b. What topics did your discussion focus on (types of tools, concerns, opportunities, or anything else)?
 - c. If you didn't talk with your kids about AI, are there things you want to talk with them about?

[Responsible Use]

- 6. What do you think it means to act responsibly or ethically with regards to AI?
 - a. As a parent specifically, what does it mean to use AI responsibly?
 - i. Do you think responsible use looks the same or different for your kids?
 - b. What kinds of resources do you use to learn about responsible use of AI?
 - c. Are you searching for any additional support or resources to help you with technology as a parent?
 - d. What are some general guidelines about responsible AI use that you think other parents should adopt?
 - e. What do you wish the rules would be during school-time?

[Specific Features]

- 7. Well-being
 - a. In terms of your overall well-being, can you envision specific ways in which AI could play a positive role in your life as a parent?
 - i. What about the life of your kids?
 - b. What kind of concerns or potential drawbacks do you associate with the impact of AI on your or your children's well-being?
 - c. Have you ever had an experience with AI that influenced your emotions or well-being?
- 8. Based on what you know about AI and our discussion today,
 - a. What specific advantages do you see for your children in growing up with AI?
 - b. What about risks?

[IF TIME]

- 9. When you think about some of the tools that we discussed today,

- a. Are there specific features that you wish they had? Or new tools that you wish existed?
What about any features that you believe should be excluded from these tools or never invented?

TEACHERS

Participant Introductions

Before we start, I'd like to know a little about each of you. Please tell me your name as well as the grades you teach or have taught in the past.

Start of the Discussion (Discussion: 60-75 minutes)

[Note: Wait at least 15 seconds after asking a question to give participants time to respond. Use the prompts only if no one speaks up or to get the discussion back on track].

[General Perception of Generative AI]

1. What comes to mind when you think of generative artificial intelligence (AI)?
 - a. What generative AI tools or applications are you familiar with?

[PROBES if Question 1 is light: General Experience with Generative AI (or AI more broadly)]

2. What's been your overall experience with AI in your life?
 - a. Can you think of a time that you used AI and it worked out well for you?
 - b. How about a time that you used it, and it didn't work out so well?
 - c. What kinds of applications do you hear other teachers talking about?
 - d. How about your students?
3. PROBE on some specific tools as mentioned in Question 2
 - a. What was it about _____ that made you think it might be interesting to try it?
 - b. For those of you who haven't used _____, what about it has kept you from it or maybe even interests you or keeps you from it now after hearing _____'s story?
4. Has anyone here talked with students in their classes about generative AI?
 - a. How did that come up (child-directed vs. teacher-directed)?
 - b. What topics did your discussion focus on (types of tools, concerns, opportunities, or anything else)?
 - c. If you didn't talk with your students about AI, are there things you want to talk with them about?

[Responsible Use]

5. What do you think it means to act responsibly or ethically with regards to AI?
 - a. As an educator specifically what does it mean to use AI responsibly?
 - i. Do you think responsible use looks the same or different for your students?

- b. Do you have access to professional development or other resources that help inform your responsible use of AI in the classroom?
 - i. [optional] Are you searching for any additional support, resources, or professional development to inform your use of AI as an educator?
 - c. What are some general guidelines about responsible AI use that you think other educators should adopt in their teaching practice?
6. What does it mean for your students to be responsible users of AI in an academic context?
- a. Have you or your district developed resources or guidelines to help inform your students on how they can responsibly use AI for learning?
 - i. [optional] Are you searching for any additional support, resources, or professional development to inform your students' use of AI in education?
 - b. What are some general guidelines about responsible AI use that you think students should adhere to?

[Specific Features]

7. SCHOOL WORK

- a. Can you envision specific ways in which AI could enhance the learning experience for students?
- b. Do you foresee any potential challenges or concerns regarding the integration of AI in education?
- c. Do you think AI could play a role in addressing specific challenges in education?
- d. Do you believe that AI has the potential to effectively serve as a tutor outside of the traditional school environment? What are your thoughts on the feasibility and benefits of utilizing AI in this capacity?

8. FUTURE SENTIMENT

- a. What role do you think AI and chatbots play in the future of education?

[IF TIME]

9. Based on what you know about AI and our discussion today,
- a. What specific advantages do you see for your students in growing up with AI?
 - b. What about risks?
 - c. Can you describe any specific advantages or risks that you see to your own work and your own use?
10. When you think about some of the tools that we discussed today,

- a. Are there specific features that you wish they had? Or new tools that you wish existed?
- b. What about any features that you believe should be excluded from these tools or never invented?

TEENS

Participant Introductions

Before we start, I'd like to know a little about each of you. Please tell me your name and one thing you like to do outside school.

[For the teens, we may want to add on a part to the initial instructions that they can ask if we use a term they don't know, and they should tell us if they haven't heard of something]

Start of the Discussion (Discussion: 60-75 minutes)

[Note: Wait at least 15 seconds after asking a question to give participants time to respond. Use the prompts only if no one speaks up or to get the discussion back on track].

[General Perception of Generative AI]

1. What comes to mind when you think of generative artificial intelligence (AI)?
 - a. What generative AI tools or applications are you familiar with?

[PROBES if Question 1 is light: General Experience with Generative AI (or AI more broadly)]

2. What's been your overall experience with AI in your life?
 - a. Can you think of a time that you used AI and it worked out well for you?
 - b. How about a time that you used it, and it didn't work out so well?
 - c. What kinds of applications do you hear your friends talking about?
 - d. How about your teachers?
3. PROBE on some specific tools as mentioned in Question 2
 - a. What was it about _____ that made you think it might be interesting to try it?
 - b. For those of you who haven't used _____, what about it has kept you from it or maybe even interests you or keeps you from it now after hearing _____'s story?

[Communication]

4. Has anyone here talked with their parents or teachers about generative AI?
 - a. How did that come up (youth-directed vs. adult-directed)?
 - b. What topics did your discussion focus on (types of tools, concerns, opportunities, or anything else)?
 - c. If you didn't talk with a parent or teacher about AI, how about any other adults? If no adults yet, are there things you want to talk with them about?

[Responsible Use]

5. What do you think it means to act responsibly or ethically?
 - a. How do you think about being responsible with any of your technologies?
 - b. Does that change for you when you think about AI?
6. What does it mean to be responsible users of AI in an academic context?
 - a. Has your school or teachers told you anything about this?

[Specific Features]

7. HOMEWORK
 - a. Have you ever used AI-powered tools or resources for homework assistance? If so, could you share your experience with us?
 - b. What are your thoughts on the effectiveness of AI in providing homework help compared to human tutors?
 - c. Are there specific subjects or topics where you think AI-powered tools excel in providing homework assistance?
8. WELL-BEING
 - a. In terms of overall well-being, can you envision specific ways in which AI could play a positive role in your life?
 - b. What kind of concerns or potential drawbacks do you associate with the impact of AI on your well-being?
 - c. Have you ever had an experience with AI that influenced your emotions or well-being?

[IF TIME]

9. Based on what you know about AI and our discussion today,
 - a. What specific advantages do you see for growing up with AI?
 - b. What about risks?
10. When you think about some of the tools that we discussed today,
 - a. Are there specific features that you wish they had? Or new tools that you wish existed?
 - b. What about any features that you believe should be excluded from these tools or never invented?

GENERAL EXTRA QUESTIONS IF TIME

- How can parents and teachers work with youth to better prepare you to work alongside A.I. systems as they transition to adulthood?
- Do you think AI is going to change the way we fundamentally live and work?
- What kinds of differences do you think there should be in how children vs. teens vs. adults use AI?

FOR ALL

Closing (Closing: 5 minutes)

Thanks for coming today and talking about these topics. Your comments have given us lots of different ways to see this issue. Thank you for your time.

Before we end,

- a. Are there any questions you wish we had asked you?
- b. Are there any questions that you may have for us?