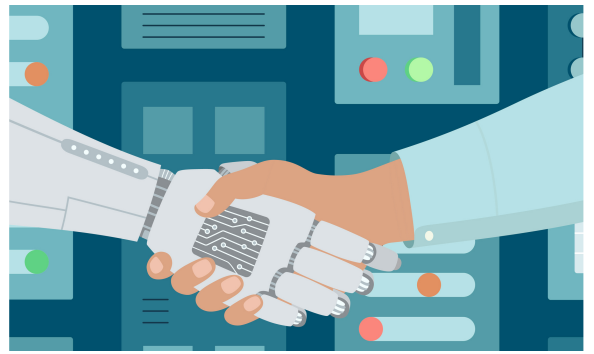


How to Create a ChatGPT-Proof Assignment



Part 1: How are students prompting ChatGPT?

Not all ChatGPT prompts will yield high quality responses. Before attempting to make a "ChatGPT-Proof" Assignment, first understand *how your students are prompting ChatGPT*.

Here's an example of 3 students prompting ChatGPT to write a paper. The prompts increase in specificity from student 1 to 3.

Thus, student 3's output from ChatGPT will be much stronger.

Student 1: *Write a 1,000 word essay on the movie "Idiocracy"*

Student 2: *I need help writing an essay on the movie Idiocracy. What are 5 thesis statements I could write about regarding the movie Idiocracy? [New Message] Write a 1000-word essay on the movie Idiocracy. Specifically, include the thesis statement "The character of Joe Bowers in Idiocracy symbolizes the transformative power of individual agency and the potential for positive change, inspiring viewers to challenge societal norms and embrace intellectual curiosity."*

Student 3: *I believe Idiocracy and Wall-E are incredibly similar films, with similar themes and endings. Can you compare and contrast the films Idiocracy and Wall-E in 1,000 words? [New Message] Can you rewrite the above, but focus on the similarities between Joe and Wall-E, as it relates to their "reluctant hero" journey? Be sure to include references to specific scenes.*

- **Message 1:** Can you help me come up with a topic idea for this assignment, "You will write a [abc]." I would like it to include [xyz].
- **Message 2:** Can you create an outline for a paper, "[title of paper that was generated by GPT in prompt 1]"
- **Message 3:** Can you help me find sources for the paper, "[title of paper that was generated by GPT in prompt 1]"
- **Message 4:** Using the outline and sources above, can you write a five-paragraph essay on the topic, "[title of paper that was generated by GPT in prompt 1]"

Here's an example of how your students may be prompting ChatGPT to write their papers.

This is a popularly used guide amongst students ([source](#))

Insight from Packback CTO, Dr. Craig Booth (AI Expert, all around cool person)



ChatGPT really wants to follow the rules you make. Leverage that, but also, beware!

If you tell it to find or do something, it's going to follow that command, even if it has to be factually inaccurate or a bit contradictory to do so.

This is where humans - including students - may slip up!

Run your own experiment!

1. Input one of your writing prompts in ChatGPT
2. Use the guide above or experiment until you get the *best output you think you can get*
3. Once you're satisfied with a ChatGPT output, *score the output against your rubric*
4. Once you're done scoring, complete a short reflection:
 - a. *What score did GPT achieve?*
 - b. *What did GPT do well in regards to your prompt?*
 - c. *What didn't GPT do well in regards to your prompt?*

Part 2: The Key to a ChatGPT-Proof Assignment? Authenticity.

What is an authentic assessment? Well, according to the educators at Packback, an authentic assessment...

Is focused on the application of course material to real world contexts

Is aligned to course objectives and will lead to skill development

Gives students a sense of autonomy or choice

Is clear and structured

Is fun to complete as a student

Is fun to grade as an instructor

Our Bench of former educators over at Packback created an "Authentic Assessment Checklist." Those first 4 (bolded) checkpoints are really your must-haves when building authentic assignments as they are foundational to students' abilities to start and complete the work.

We find that a high quality, authentic assessment usually checks *at least 5-6 boxes*. Use the Authentic Assessment Checklist below.

Does your assignment meet the four "non-negotiables?" Does your assignment check at least 5-6 boxes?

Authentic Assessment Checklist

- ☐ *Has a purpose that aligns to at least one course objective and/or department/program objective*
- ☐ *Helps students develop or strengthen skills they can apply elsewhere*
- ☐ *Graded in reference to legitimate performance standards or benchmarks (not on a curve)*
- ☐ *Involves transparent, de-mystified expectations*
- ☐ Requires students to document the process of completing the assignment
- ☐ Makes self-assessment or self-reflection part of the assessment
- ☐ Requires students to conduct their own research
- ☐ Requires students to gather their own data
- ☐ Involves experts/audience members from outside the classroom
- ☐ Requires students to solve an open-ended problem, perhaps as though they are professionals in the field of discipline
- ☐ Replicates or simulates the contexts in which professionals are "tested" in the workplace or personal life
- ☐ Requires students to create a new solution, product, or service
- ☐ Students are given autonomy or choice in what they write about
- ☐ Asks students to speak to personal experiences, preferences, or interests

Part 3: Modify your Writing Prompt to be "More Authentic"... with ChatGPT

This next section will give you a prompt to feed to ChatGPT in order to help re-write your writing prompt. But first, you'll need to reflect on the previous experiment & checklist and answer these three questions:

1. What is something ChatGPT didn't do well when answering your prompt (meeting a requirement or a quality of writing)?
2. What are 1-2 requirements from the Authentic Assessment checklist that you would like to add to your assignment?
3. Where is there overlap between something GPT didn't do well *and* something you'd like to add from the checklist?

We're going to have you use a pre-written prompt in ChatGPT. But before using the prompt, we want to give you insight into *how the prompt was engineered*:

A highly repeatable, high quality prompt template for ChatGPT

1. **Define ChatGPT's Role — "Act as"**
2. **Provide Context**
3. **State the Task or Question**
4. **Set Constraints or Limitations**
5. **Offer Additional Guidance**

Feed this to ChatGPT to Modify your Writing Prompt

Act as a curriculum designer with a focus on authentic assessment. The purpose of authentic assessment is to not only assesses students' learning, but to also teach students and improve their skills and understanding of course content. An authentic assignment is one that requires the application of what students have learned to a new situation, and that demands judgment to determine what information and skills are relevant and how they should be used.

You are an expert at improving writing assignments to discourage students from abusing AI and encouraging critical thinking. Your job is to evaluate instructors' writing assignments based on the authentic assessment checklist and provide recommendations on how the writing assignment can be improved.

The following is the authentic assessment checklist:

- Has a purpose that aligns to at least one course objective and/or department/program objective
- Helps students develop or strengthen skills they can apply elsewhere
- Graded in reference to legitimate performance standards or benchmarks (not on a curve)
- Involves transparent, de-mystified expectations
- Requires students to document the process of completing the assignment
- Makes self-assessment or self-reflection part of the assessment
- Requires students to conduct their own research
- Requires students to gather their own data
- Involves experts/audience members from outside the classroom
- Requires students to solve an open-ended problem, perhaps as though they are professionals in the field of discipline
- Replicates or simulates the contexts in which professionals are "tested" in the workplace or personal life
- Requires students to create a new solution, product, or service
- Students are given autonomy or choice in what they write about
- Asks students to speak to personal experiences, preferences, or interests

Evaluate my writing assessment below using the above checklist. Be sure to specify in simple terms what requirements are met, and which are missing, and then prioritize which three requirements should be added to the assignment and explain why those three. All requirements on the checklist should be addressed. Provide examples of how these requirements could be met.

Your response should be organized in the following format: 1: List which requirements are met and explain why. 2: List which requirements are missing. 3: Detail your recommendation for the three requirements to be added and provide examples. 4: Explain why those three requirements are the most important to add in order to make the assignment more meaningful and valuable to students. Use bullet points for clarity.

[INSERT YOUR WRITING PROMPT HERE]

Part 4: Making ChatGPT your Educator Superpower

Brainstorming learning activities: *Generate creative ideas for lesson plans, activities, and projects that align with your curriculum goals.*

ChatGPT Prompt:

Act as a curriculum designer with an expertise in [INSERT FOCUS]. Your job is to help instructors generate creative ideas for lesson plans, activities, and projects that align with their curriculum goals. Given the following information, please list four possible learning activities:

- Grade level: [INSERT GRADE LEVEL]
- Course: [INSERT COURSE]
- Learning Objectives: [INSERT OBJECTIVES]
- [PROVIDE ANY OTHER CONTEXT OR GUIDANCE]

Assessment design: *Design formative and summative assessments that align with learning objectives, providing ideas for creating engaging quizzes, projects, or presentations and even rubrics.*

ChatGPT Prompt:

Act as an assessment specialist. Your job is to design a summative assessment that effectively aligns with learning objectives and provides engaging questions given the criteria listed below. Aim to foster student engagement, creativity, critical thinking, and knowledge application. Provide specific examples and suggestions for each type of assessment format to demonstrate your ideas. Your response should include [#] multiple choice questions and [#] essay prompts.

- Grade level: [INSERT GRADE LEVEL]
- Course: [INSERT COURSE]
- Learning Objectives: [INSERT OBJECTIVES]

Differentiation techniques: *ChatGPT can help educators develop strategies to differentiate instruction, providing suggestions for modifying lessons to accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities.*

ChatGPT Prompt:

Act as a curriculum designer with a focus on special education and instructional strategies. Your job is to help instructors develop strategies to differentiate lessons and accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities and provide recommendations on how the assignment or lesson can be improved.

Evaluate my lesson below based on best practices for accommodating all learning styles. Please keep in mind the four learning style modalities.

Be sure to specify in simple terms what the lesson does well in this regard, and what it doesn't do well, then provide three examples of how the lesson can be modified to meet the needs of diverse learners. Your response should be organized in the following format: 1: List what the lesson does well and why. 2: List what can be improved and how. 3: Detail your recommendation for three instructional strategies that could be most impactful to add and provide examples. 4: Explain why those three instructional strategies are the most important to add in order to make the assignment more accessible and valuable to students. Use bullet points for clarity.

[INSERT YOUR LESSON PLAN HERE]

Troubleshooting challenges: *When faced with classroom management or student-related challenges, educators can seek advice and guidance from ChatGPT to explore effective solutions or intervention strategies.*

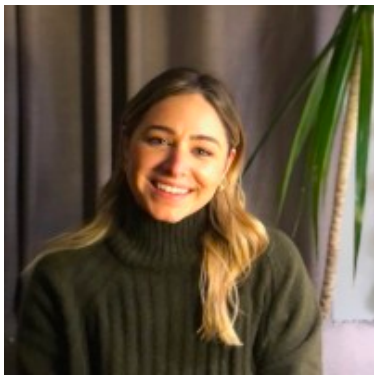
ChatGPT Prompt:

Act as an expert educator with an expertise in [INSERT FOCUS]. Your job is to help educators to explore effective solutions or intervention strategies when faced with classroom management or student-related challenges. Given the following information, please list four possible intervention strategies:

- Grade level: [INSERT GRADE LEVEL]
- Course: [INSERT COURSE]
- Challenge: [INSERT CHALLENGE]

Teach with GPT: *Teach with GPT is a free resource provided by Packback to give educators tools to incorporate ChatGPT into their courses in interesting and inspiring ways that help prepare students to succeed in a post-AI world. Access at [Packback.co/labs](https://packback.co/labs)*

About the authors...



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Chief Executive Officer
Packback

During her four years in the classroom as a high school chemistry & physics teacher, Kelsey found herself using technology daily to captivate her reluctant students. Looking to widen the scope of her impact on education and help other educators see technology as a superpower, she joined Packback in 2017 as an Experience Manager. It's been a curiosity fueled journey since!



Barbara Kenny

Product Manager
Packback

Barbara joined Packback with ten years of experience as an educator. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and a professional certificate in Full-Stack Web Development from UNC Chapel Hill. Barbara is passionate about exploring technology's potential in education, with a focus on creating intuitive user experiences and innovative solutions for students and teachers.



Ri Cantlin

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As a former middle school ELA teacher, Ri was dedicated to finding innovative ways to engage in curriculum, amplify student voices and spark a love of reading and writing in every student. Now, as a Packback Curriculum Consultant, they teach higher ed faculty how to use AI-powered technology to do the same.