



The Consortium
Alberta Professional Learning Consortium

AI Servant Collaborator - Planning, Feedback, Resources... Dr. Rick Gilson

August 20, 2025



Land Acknowledgement

I was born December 22, 1958 in Calgary, on Treaty 7 Territory—a treaty signed September 22, 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing between the Crown and the Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, Stoney-Nakoda, and Tsuut’ina Nations. I have lived on Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and again on Treaty 7 territory. I acknowledge that this land is also the historical and present-day Homeland of the Métis in present-day Alberta.

I recognize that the rights, relationships, and responsibilities established by these Treaties predate my family’s arrival. As a result, I understand that I live with inherited responsibilities to learn, act, and reconcile—to uphold the spirit of these agreements across the remainder of my life.

I honour the lives, knowledge, and enduring presence of the original Peoples of this land. I commit to ongoing learning, to fostering respectful relationships with Indigenous communities, and to translating this awareness into meaningful action—small and significant—toward reconciliation.

Disclaimers:

I am not an AI wizard with all the answers:
The more I know, the more I know I need
to know ...more.

Today is different from yesterday and next
week will bring new opportunities and ways
to support your learning/teaching through
various forms of AI use.



On a Scale from 1 - 5

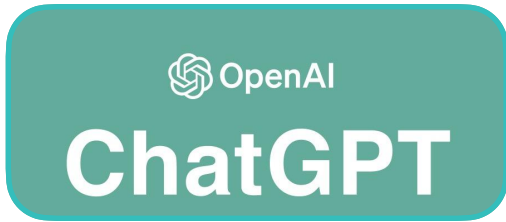
1



5

"I know almost nothing"

"I have tried a number
Of platforms use it every
day"

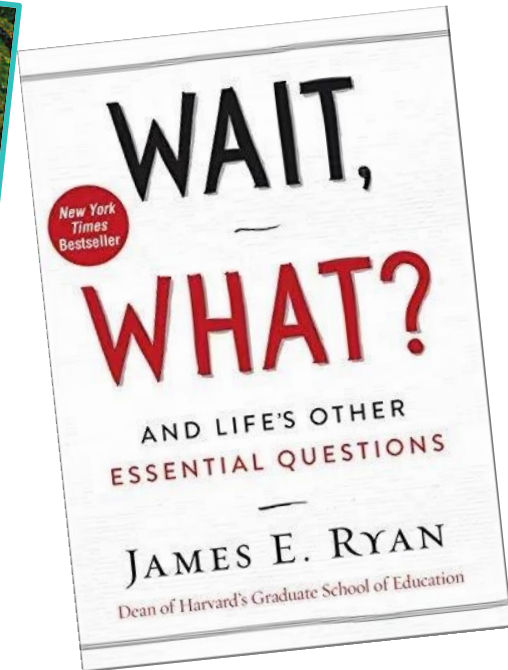
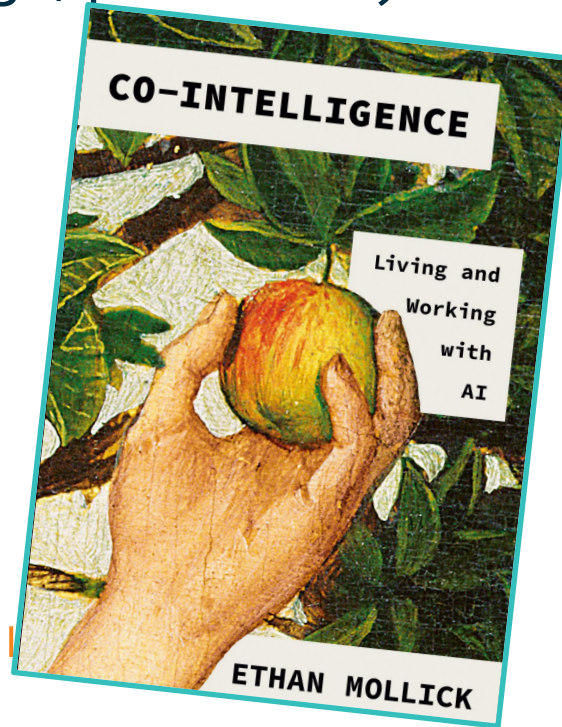


What's in your Library? Who are your people?

Supporting every educator
in every classroom



Books (usually born or supported from/by newsletters, blogs, podcasts)

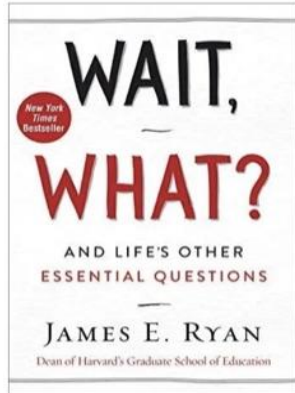


A bit of a different book - but it's about us

Supporting every educator
in every classroom



Five Essential Questions for Life



1. Wait,...what?

Gets to the root of understanding

2. I wonder....?

If, why, how...The heart of curiosity

3. Couldn't we at least...?

Begin, agree, try - Break the logjam and begin the process.

4. How can I help?

The base of all good relationships, humbly focus on how, from their point of view, you can help.

5. What truly matters?

Stay focused on the heart of the matter, the heart of life. Where are your values in all that you do?

PDF Summary:

Full summary available on my
linktr.ee/rickgilson site

Doing the Thinking - Perhaps a Human version of "The Bitter Lesson"

The Bitter Lesson comes from a story shared by Ethan Mollick on his substack July 28, 2025 - Initially programmers tried to "teach" computers how to play chess, when they taught computers how to learn, specifically learn from their mistakes, that's when the computer learned how to "win" at "thinking games" like Chess,

The lesson is bitter, "because it means that our human understanding of problems built from a lifetime of experience is not that important in solving a problem with AI."



Three Prime Directives of AI



Be Harmless

Prevent direct,
obvious harm.
Legal and financial
necessity.



Be Helpful

Provide positive,
useful experience.
Overwhelming
drive to assist



Be Truthful

Strive to be factually
accurate, but often
comes after
helpfulness

They are ordered
priorities

1st

2nd

And....then.....

3rd

Effective Prompt Engineering

1. Learn the basic structure of effective prompts:

- Setting the tone/role ("Act as a high school social studies teacher")
- Providing clear, specific instructions
- Including context and constraints

2. Practice iterative prompting through exercises:

- Start with basic prompts and observe results
- Refine prompts based on responses
- Learn to engage in multi-turn conversations to get better results

3. Apply to real educational scenarios:

- Create lesson plan prompts for different subjects
- Develop assessment prompts that align with curriculum outcomes
- Practice generating differentiated materials for diverse learners

“RAPPEL framework (Role, Action, Prime, Prompt, Evaluate, Learn)



Call to Action

Start your request with a clear call to action. What do you want to know? What do you want AI to do for you? State this in simple and succinct terms. Ex: Explain the concept of motif in literature.



Role

Ask AI to assume a specific role as it completes this request. Ex: Assume the role of an encouraging middle school teacher as you do this.



Audience

Ensure that AI knows who it is framing its response for. Perhaps that's you, but if you're using AI to generate content for others, be clear about this. Ex: Use words that a thirteen-year-old new English language learner will understand.



Format

Challenge AI to produce a response in a meaningful format. Ex: Offer a response that can be placed on a poster, and include a simple example that refers to a Taylor Swift song.



Technicalities

Include parameters and other specifics relevant to the conventions you'd like AI to uphold. Ex: Compose your response in complete sentences. Do not include bullet points.



Social Cultural Context

Include social and cultural contexts and direct the bot to mitigate cultural biases in its output. Ex: Use neutral language that does not assume characteristics, roles, or preferences based on protected characteristics like race, gender, or age.

Before you hit enter on your next prompt...

Three Questions....

Could this be more specific?

What Jargon Have I Omitted?

What **ESSENTIAL** Context is missing?

“Assume it knows nothing. Provide everything. Specificity is not just a technique; it is the governing principle of effective communication with generative AI.” Chris Penn

Ask a Friend...

Can you create an image with white background and draw upon the APLC color scheme and all the image says is "Ask a Friend..." this will be placed in the upper corner of a slide in a presentation on AI and prompting. By the way can you take a minute and provide an improved prompt of this prompt?

Final Improved Prompt

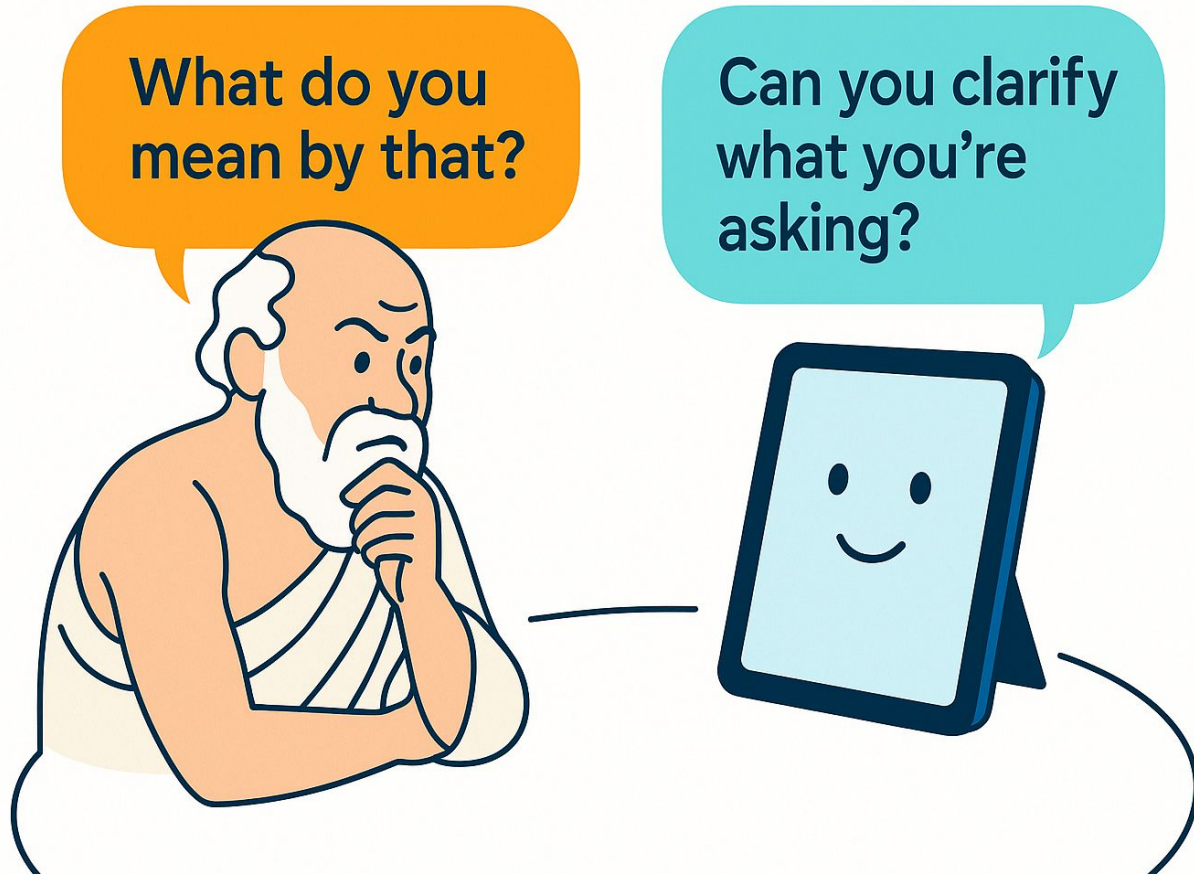
*"Create a clean, minimalist graphic with a **white background**, designed to sit in the upper corner of a slide deck. The text should simply read: '**Ask a Friend...**'. Use the **Red Hat font** for the text. Apply the **Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC) color scheme** — orange (#ED8C00), teal (#00B6ED), and dark teal-blue (#002C4E) — for the typography and/or subtle accents. Ensure the design is professional, modern, and legible on a presentation slide. Keep it simple, with no icons or extra decoration, so it blends seamlessly into an AI and prompting presentation."*



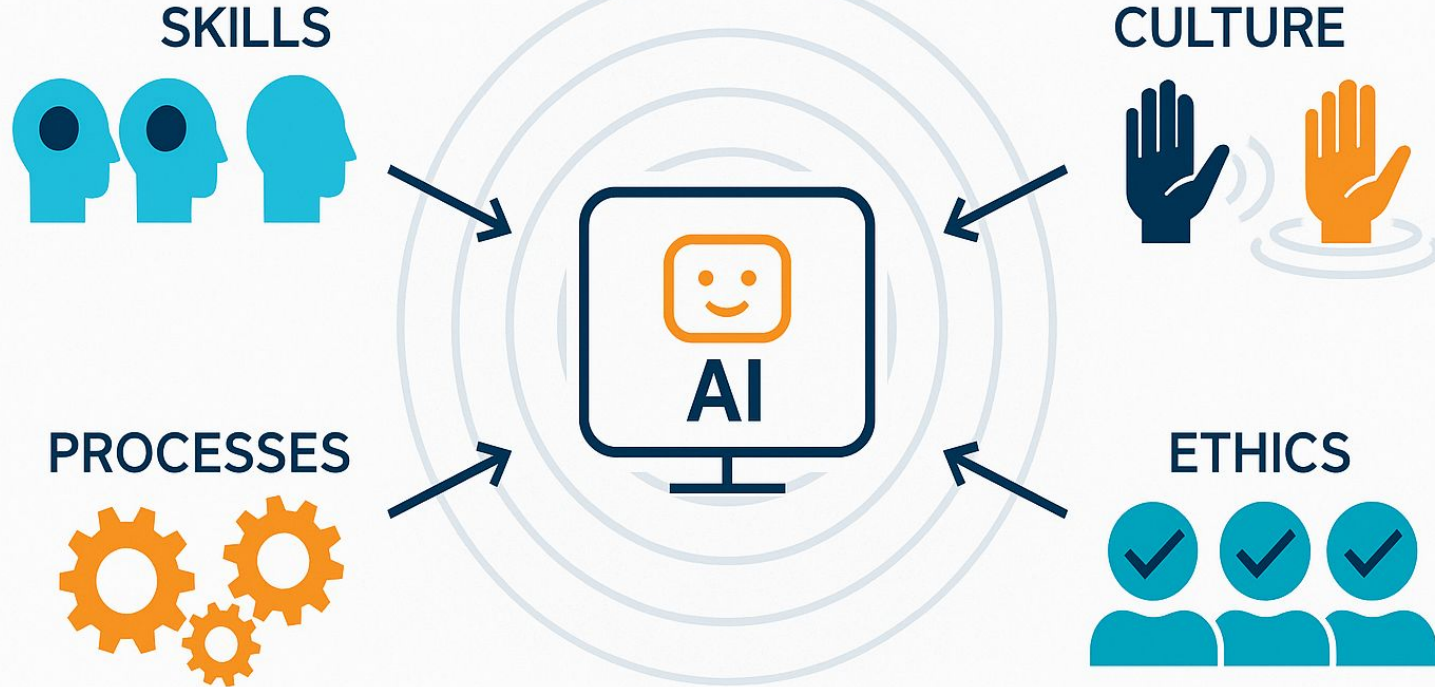
“When you find yourself staring at a nonsensical, incorrect, or utterly useless output from an AI model, the problem is rarely that the AI has “gone rogue” or “is being stupid.” The problem is almost always that you have, unwittingly, fed it garbage.” Chris Penn

When we think of **ingredients** - **think data** - articles or files we are directing the model to access and use; when we **think recipe**, - **think your instructions**.

Embrace Your Inner Socratic with Your AI Intern



AI AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER





Seek Learning and Understanding...

I listened to a talk last night (August 19) where the speaker shared that “In 1934, the poet TS Eliot famously lamented, **“All our knowledge brings us nearer to our ignorance. All our ignorance brings us nearer to death. But nearness to death no nearer to God. Where is the life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?”**”

He went on to share that in 1791, the Chinese author, Cao Xuerqin, wrote “The Dream of the Red Chamber,” which begins with two couplets found at the entrance to the land of illusion.

“When untrue becomes true, true becomes untrue. And when the unreal becomes real, real becomes unreal.” **Hmmm....**

<https://linktr.ee/rickgilson>



*
Rick Gilson
Grandpa, Eternal Learner, Educator,
Certified Tiny Habits Coach, Consultant

Instagram YouTube Facebook

UFLI example

General Resources Teachers Parents

My AI Prompt Collection - An evolutionary exercise

...read by Grandpa Youtube Series

40 AI tools for teachers



**DITCH THAT
TEXTBOOK**

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Adobe GenAI | Microsoft Designer | Curipod | Microsoft Copilot | Question Well | Goblin Tools | FigJam Jambot | Formative AI | KhanMigo | Diffit |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| ChatGPT | Google Gemini | WeWillWrite | Magic School | Education CoPilot | MirrorTalk | EduAide.ai | Hello History | Claude | Magic Studio |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| TeachAid | Suno | Conker | Perplexity | Parlay | Parlay Genie | Grouper | Hey Pi | Quizizz AI | Twee NotebookLM |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Brisk Teaching | SchoolAI | Grammarly | Antimatter Sorcerer | Q-chat | Class Companion | Snorkl | AutoDraw | Ideogram | Padlet |

Survey Link

<https://aplc.ca/survey/?id=15077>



Survey QR code



Session Title and Survey

**AI Servant Collaborator -
Planning, Feedback, Resources...
Dr. Rick Gilson**

Thank you

Please visit our website for more information

aplc.ca

