



Assessment Design **in the AI Era**

Verify student thinking in the AI era.

**In 2026, let's stop using
flawed AI detectors that give
false positives...**

Try adding 'layers' to your
assessment design instead.

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Adding layers to your assessment design can help you:

- Verify student **authorship**
- Encourage **authentic** demonstration of skills
- Provide an **assurance** of learning

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Here's an example...

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Layered assessment design

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<div>First draft completed in class</div> <div>(supervised)</div>	<div>Students polish writing & include additional research</div> <div>(unsupervised)</div>	<div>'Viva Voce'</div>
Authorship	Authenticity	Assurance

Phase 1

Students complete Phase 1 in class under supervised conditions. The purpose is to hear your students' genuine voice and thinking without access to AI.

During this phase, students can demonstrate their ability to:

- initially brainstorm and flesh out their ideas
- form a position or thesis statement
- structure ideas into paragraphs

Phase 1 should be completed with pen/paper... or using devices with a locked-down assessment environment.

Ensure you collect this first draft. If required, use this version as an initial **verification of student authorship**.

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Phase 2

In Phase 2, allow students more time outside of class to:

- polish writing
- elaborate on initial ideas
- include additional examples
- integrate further research into their final product

Phase 2 offers students the benefit of increased **authenticity** that comes with unsupervised assessment conditions, as they have more time and space to think and be creative.

Importantly though, we need to assume most students will likely use AI during Phase 2. However, don't attempt to limit this.

Rather, trust your layered assessment design will provide students enough opportunity to demonstrate their own thinking.

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Phase 3

In Phase 3, require your students to participate in a **Viva Voce** or oral defence before you accept their final submission.

Expect your students to defend and justify:

- their ideas
- the concepts they've discussed
- technical vocabulary included in Phase 2

This process brings an **assurance of learning**.

Students may have used AI throughout Phase 2, but they still need to demonstrate they can stand behind their own thinking.

Phase 3 shouldn't be a surprise or targeted to only a few students. Ensure all students understand they'll need to complete all three phases before you accept their submission.

If appropriate, you could even include this defence as part of the total weighted grade for the assessment. For example:

- Final Product = 70%
- Viva Voce = 30%

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But where do teachers find the time to interview a class full of students?

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Thinking Mode automates the Viva Voce process.

Saving your teachers time to quickly verify student thinking in the AI era.

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Layered assessment design

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<p>First draft completed in class</p> <p>(supervised)</p>	<p>Students polish writing & include additional research</p> <p>(unsupervised)</p>	<p>Thinking Mode</p>
Authorship	Authenticity	Assurance

**Here's how it
works...**

01



Students Upload

Students upload their assignment to **Thinking Mode**.

02



Secure Environment

Each student is moved into a
full-screen, locked-down
assessment environment.

03



Conversational Assessment

Our AI asks each student
specific and adaptive questions
about their submission.

04



Get Evidence

Get instant verification of what students understand about their submitted assignments.



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thinkingmode.com