

## Show Notes for Episode 2: Should I Be Using AI?

### Episode Summary

In this episode, we dive into the fundamental question: *Should I be using AI?* While the question might seem basic, it's one that educators often grapple with as they navigate the potential of integrating AI into their workflows. Join me as I share my experiences, insights, and practical examples of how AI can be a game-changer in education, if used thoughtfully and strategically.

### Key Takeaways

1. **AI as a Tool, Not a Solution**
  - AI should be viewed as a support tool, not a replacement for your skills or judgment.
  - It's particularly effective for ideation, content creation, and task optimization, but not suitable for every aspect of work.
2. **Two Camps of AI Adoption**
  - Those who choose to use AI proactively.
  - Those who feel compelled to adopt AI due to external expectations.
3. **Practical Applications of AI in Education**
  - Generating student activities tailored to lecture slides.
  - Enhancing lesson plans with efficiency and alignment to learning outcomes.
  - Using AI for analysis, such as:
    - Vetting assignment clarity.
    - Gathering and synthesizing anonymized student feedback.
  - Acting as a sounding board for process and content refinement.
4. **Ethical Considerations**
  - Always prioritize privacy and data protection, especially when working with student data.
  - Institutions should consider providing licensed AI tools to ensure equitable access.
5. **Guiding Questions Before Using AI**
  - What is the task that this tool will support?
  - What will I gain by using AI that I otherwise couldn't achieve?
6. **The SPARK Framework**
  - **Simplicity:** Break tasks into manageable components.
  - **Precision:** Give clear, specific instructions.
  - **Adaptability:** Adjust based on AI responses.
  - **Reinforcement:** Iterate to refine results.
  - **Knowledge:** Learn through experimentation.

### Actionable Advice

- Start small: Use AI tools to brainstorm or enhance specific areas of your workflow.

- Engage critically: Validate AI outputs and ensure they align with your objectives.
- Encourage safe exploration: Discuss AI use openly with colleagues and students to share best practices and insights.

### Resources Mentioned

- [AI Training 101](#): Explore frameworks and resources for educators.
- Other AI tools: ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini.

### Feedback Welcome

This podcast is for you! Share your thoughts, ideas, or topics you'd like covered. Submit feedback via email or through the form on the website. Let me know how I can make this series more valuable for you.

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