

Lesson 4: Writing & Reasoning — With and Without AI

Goal: Reinforce student thinking, structure, and authentic voice through both manual and AI-assisted writing.

What Students Learn

- Structure first: Clear thinking before writing always beats fixing a messy draft later.
- Voice is personal: Tone, word choice, and experience can't be faked. AI defaults always flatten them.
- In-class writing is where **your** real thinking shows, no tools, no shortcuts.

Understanding "Voice" in Writing

Voice is your style, the way your experience, choices, and attitude show up on the page.

Examples:

- Flat AI-style: "The industrial revolution was a significant event."
- With voice: "The industrial revolution didn't just change economies, it rewired the way people thought about work."

Teaching "Voice" in AI Prompts

Don't let AI choose the tone for you. Tell it who to "be" so the writing matches your voice:

- "Write this as if you're a journalist covering the event live..."
- "Imagine you're a policy expert with 20 years of field experience..."
- "Use a persuasive tone for a high school audience..."

Prompt Example:

> You are an experienced urban planner explaining the impact of public parks. Write a short persuasive paragraph aimed at a skeptical city council.

In-Class Task Examples (No AI)

Format 1:

Prompt: "What is one social consequence of industrialization? Explain using one real example."

Constraints: 10 minutes, no notes, 150 words max.

Format 2:

Prompt: "Choose a side: Should AI be allowed in student research? Support with 3 clear reasons."

Task: Bullet-point outline → then paragraph form → optional oral explanation.

Skill Focus: Clarity under pressure, clean logic chaining, original thinking.

At-Home Task Examples (With AI)

- Use AI to generate opposing viewpoints and stress-test your argument
- Have AI draft three introductions, choose the strongest and explain why
- Rewrite AI output using your own experience and voice

Common Pitfalls to Catch

- Students using AI for first drafts instead of generating their own ideas
- Mistaking clean grammar for actual thinking
- Don't let AI replace your opinion with vague or generic lines.

Assignment

Objective: Compare your raw thinking with your AI-assisted version

1. In-Class Version: Timed response, no AI
2. At-Home Version: Use AI as a support tool
3. Compare + Reflect:
 - What changed?
 - What felt more personal?
 - Where did AI help, or mislead?

For Parents / Guardians

Ask questions that force real self-assessment:

- “Where in this paragraph is your voice strongest?”
- “What part did AI help you with, and what did you write from scratch?”
- “Which version do you believe more?”