

Quick Kit: AI-Resistive Activities Ideas

In a world where AI tools are increasingly accessible, not every learning experience needs to be AI-integrated. In fact, some of the most powerful ways to support authentic learning, critical thinking, and student development come from intentionally AI-resistive activities—assignments designed to foreground original thought, real-time collaboration, and personal experience. These kinds of tasks promote deeper student engagement by asking learners to draw on their own ideas, voices, and observations—skills that no chatbot can replicate. From oral exams to performance-based projects, these approaches emphasize the value of presence, process, and active participation.

The table below highlights examples of AI-resistive activities that align with both UTEP Edge advantages and Texas Core Curriculum (TCC) objectives. These assignments are especially effective at promoting skills like ethical reasoning, personal responsibility, and communication—while also fostering creativity, confidence, and leadership. Whether you’re aiming to deter over-reliance on AI or simply want to deepen student ownership of the learning process, these ideas can be adapted across disciplines and class formats.

Some Caveats to Consider

When selecting an AI-Resistive activity or assessment for your course, consider the scalability, accessibility and the environment of your course.

- If you are teaching a high-capacity, online, or hybrid/high-flex course, these options may not be practical!
- If you are asking students to make use of on-campus facilities such as the recording studio, ensuring that such assignments have generous deadlines and articulating to students the need to reserve space early to ensure they have access to those facilities is highly recommended.

Not every type of assignment possible is listed here, but there are some common threads throughout the assignment types. Consider these common aspects as you scan the list.

- Activities and assessments focus on the *process*
- They leverage live, on-site, or *in situ* activities
- They usually benefit from iteration and scaffolding to track student development
- They Require more observation and attention paid toward students/student groups (consider how classmates, team captains, class deputies, or undergraduate assistants could be leveraged to distribute the load)

Examples of AI-Resistive Activities Aligned to Student Learning Outcomes (Edge Advantages and Texas Core Objectives)

AI-Resistive Activity/Assessment	Description	UTEP EDGE Advantages	TCC Core Objectives
In-Class Writing (Handwritten or Monitored)	Students respond to prompts during class without access to digital devices. Encourages original thinking and deters use of generative AI.	- Confidence: Practicing spontaneous articulation. - Communication: Sharpening written expression.	- Communication Skills: Writing clearly and effectively. - Critical Thinking: Developing coherent arguments.
Oral Exams or Interviews	Individual or group interviews where students must explain their thought processes, decisions, or reflections.	- Confidence: Public speaking and self-expression. - Critical Thinking: Thinking on one's feet.	- Communication Skills: Speaking effectively. - Critical Thinking Skills: Evaluating and defending viewpoints.
Process-Focused Assignments	Grading based on ideation, drafts, notes, and iterative development rather than only the final product.	- Problem-Solving: Emphasizing learning over product. - Leadership: Owning a developmental process.	- Personal Responsibility: Demonstrating academic integrity. - Communication Skills: Articulating progress and feedback responses.
Field-Based Observations or Reflections	Students must reflect on real-world experiences like community service, internships, or clinicals — situations AI cannot fabricate meaningfully.	- Global Awareness: Learning from lived experience. - Confidence: Articulating unique insights. - Leadership: Acting on experiential knowledge.	- Social Responsibility: Engaging with diverse communities. - Ethical Reasoning: Reflecting on real-world implications.

Studio or Performance-Based Work	Creative outputs that must be physically performed, built, or demonstrated in real time (e.g., lab setups, art pieces, musical performances, teaching demos).	- Entrepreneurship: Innovating through creation. - Confidence: Public display of skill. - Teamwork: Collaborative production.	- Creative Thinking: Expressing original ideas. - Empirical & Quantitative Skills: Applying methods in real contexts.
Unscripted Class Debates or Socratic Seminars	Real-time argumentation or collaborative discussions without access to AI. Emphasizes spontaneity, critical listening, and authentic voice.	- Communication: Verbal persuasion and clarity. - Critical Thinking: Engaging deeply with peers.	- Communication Skills: Listening and speaking effectively. - Critical Thinking: Responding to complex issues.
Ethnographic Interviews or Surveys	Students must design and conduct interviews or surveys with real individuals, then analyze and reflect on findings.	- Global Awareness: Learning from diverse perspectives. - Problem-Solving: Designing effective instruments. - Leadership: Engaging with stakeholders.	- Empirical Skills: Collecting and analyzing qualitative data. - Social Responsibility: Respecting participant experience and ethics.
Personal Narratives or Memoir Writing	Writing tasks that focus on personal experience or first-hand events that cannot be fabricated by AI in a credible way.	- Confidence: Telling one's own story. - Communication: Articulating internal reflection. - Entrepreneurship: Framing personal growth journeys.	- Communication Skills: Writing authentically and clearly. - Ethical Reasoning: Reflecting honestly and respectfully.
Closed-Resource Problem Solving	In-class quizzes or design challenges where only pencil, paper, and	- Problem-Solving: Applying known strategies.	- Quantitative Skills: Performing calculations without tools.

Maker Activities / Analog Prototyping	mental reasoning are allowed. Encourages students to rely on internalized skills and real-time application.	- Critical Thinking: Making connections without assistance.	- Critical Thinking: Applying logic and method.
	Assignments that require physical construction or drawing (e.g., building models, hand-sketched designs) where AI cannot automate outputs.	- Entrepreneurship: Iterative design. - Teamwork: Collaborating on builds. - Confidence: Sharing physical prototypes.	- Creative and Quantitative Skills: Combining art and engineering. - Teamwork: Collaborating effectively.