

AI Feedback Tools

Teachers' Guide

Educators Technology | educatorstechnology.com

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Introduction

AI has quietly worked its way into almost every corner of teaching. Lesson planning, assessment design, rubric creation, grading, differentiation, you name it. And the numbers back this up. According to a [2025 survey](#), 85% of teachers used AI tools in the preceding year, with 69% reporting improved teaching outcomes. What caught my attention is that 17% of those teachers said they're specifically using AI for quick feedback on student work. That's a real shift in how classrooms operate day to day.

Now, I'm not going to pretend the picture is all rosy. There's a growing body of research that raises legitimate red flags. A 2025 [MIT study](#) by Kosmyna et al. found that students who relied on AI during the writing process showed less cognitive engagement, which is the opposite of what good feedback should produce. And teachers on the ground report that AI grading accuracy hovers around 50-55% when a rubric is provided and drops to roughly 33% without one. These are concerns worth taking seriously.

That said, my general stance remains optimistic. I see huge potential in AI feedback tools, especially when teachers use them with intention and keep themselves in the loop.

So after covering [AI-enabled assessments](#) and [AI grading tools](#) in previous guides, today I want to talk about feedback. In this guide, I cover practical tips for using AI to give students faster, more personalized feedback, a curated list of tools that teachers actually recommend for classroom use, and a look at the limitations you should know about before jumping in.

Not All Feedback Is Created Equal

We give feedback on all kinds of work. Homework, quizzes, essays, lab reports, presentations, group projects. And depending on what we're evaluating, the stakes change. A quick check-in on a rough draft? Low stakes. A final exam that determines a course grade? High stakes. The type of feedback each one calls for is different, and AI handles some of these far better than others.

I've seen several teachers put blanket bans on AI feedback altogether, and I think that's missing the bigger picture. It's a bit like refusing to use a calculator because it can't write a proof. We need to step back and recognize that, like any teaching tool, AI has areas where it does a genuinely impressive job and areas where the human element, the personal, cultural, and social awareness that only a teacher brings, is irreplaceable.

A student working through a family crisis, a learner whose cultural background shapes how they argue in writing, a kid who finally took a creative risk after months of playing it safe. AI doesn't see any of that. You do.

Indeed, no matter what kind of feedback we're talking about, whether it's a two-line comment on a grammar exercise or a full-page response to a research paper, AI-generated feedback should never go straight to students without a teacher reviewing and editing it first. I don't think AI is ready to produce a final draft of feedback that you simply hand over. Teachers always need to read through it, adjust the tone, add context, and remove anything that feels off or generic.

One more thing worth knowing: the quality of AI feedback depends heavily on the rubric you give it. Vague rubrics produce vague feedback. Specific criteria, on the other hand, give the AI something concrete to work with. So, if you're planning to use any AI feedback tool, invest the time in your rubric first. It's the single biggest factor in how useful the output will be.

Tips for Getting the Most Out of AI Feedback

1 Build Your Rubric Before You Build Your Workflow

I keep coming back to this because it's the single most important factor. Teachers who use AI feedback tools with a clear, detailed rubric consistently get better results than those who don't. So, before you try any tool, write out exactly what you're looking for: argument structure, evidence use, grammar, formatting, whatever matters for that assignment. The more specific your criteria, the more useful the AI's comments will be.

2 Review Everything Before It Reaches Students

I mentioned this earlier, but it's worth repeating as a concrete habit. Read every piece of AI-generated feedback before your students see it. At least for the first few rounds. You'll catch generic comments that don't apply, overly harsh phrasing, and the occasional feedback that completely misses the point. As you get comfortable with a tool and learn its patterns, you can start scanning faster. But that initial review period is how you build trust in the output and, just as importantly, how your students build trust that the feedback they're getting actually reflects your standards.

3 Teach Students How to Act on Feedback

[Anna Mills](#), a writing instructor who's done extensive work on AI and writing pedagogy, makes a point that stuck with me: AI feedback means nothing if students

don't know what to do with it. And she's right. Handing a student a list of AI-generated comments and expecting improvement is like giving someone a map without telling them where they're going. Build in a reflection step. Ask students to pick the two or three comments they found most useful, explain why, and describe what they'll change in their next draft. This turns passive feedback consumption into active learning.

4 Try the PAIRR Model: Peer + AI + Reflection

One of the more creative approaches I came across in the research is the [PAIRR feedback model](#), which combines peer feedback, AI feedback, and structured reflection. Students get comments from a classmate and from an AI tool, then write a short reflection comparing the two: which feedback was more helpful, which felt more specific, which one they'll actually use. It builds critical thinking about feedback itself, and it gives students practice evaluating AI output, a skill they'll need well beyond your classroom.

5 Use AI for First Drafts, Not Final Ones

The sweet spot for AI feedback is early in the writing or problem-solving process. First drafts, practice sets, rough outlines. This is where students benefit most from quick turnaround, and it's where AI's surface-level strengths (grammar, structure, clarity, formatting) are most relevant. Save your detailed, personal feedback for later stages when students have already incorporated the basics and need guidance on the deeper stuff: voice, argument quality, creative choices, growth over time.

6 Spot-Check for Bias Regularly

This goes back to the equity concerns in the previous section, but it needs to be a habit, not a one-time audit. Every few weeks, pull a sample of AI feedback given to your ESL students and compare it against feedback given to native English speakers on similar quality work. Look for patterns: are certain students getting flagged more often for grammar? Are scores consistently lower for multilingual writers? If you notice discrepancies, adjust your rubric language, add explicit instructions to the AI about valuing ideas over surface-level correctness, or simply override the tool's judgment for those students.

AI Feedback Tools

There's no shortage of AI tools that can help with feedback, but they're not all built the same way. Some are general-purpose chatbots you can shape with the right prompt, and others are dedicated platforms designed specifically for classroom feedback. Here's a look at the ones teachers actually use and recommend.

1. AI Chatbots (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini)

These are my personal favorites, and I always recommend them to teachers first. You don't need a dozen specialized platforms when you know how to prompt and interact with a good chatbot. ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini can all handle feedback tasks remarkably well if you give them the right instructions.

Here's what that looks like in practice. You paste your rubric into the chat, followed by a student's essay or assignment, and then ask the AI to provide feedback based on those specific criteria. You can ask it to focus on argument structure only, or grammar only, or to give an overall assessment with suggestions for improvement. You can tell it to keep the tone encouraging, or to write feedback at a level a ninth grader can understand. The flexibility is the whole point. You're not locked into whatever feedback template a dedicated tool decided to use.

A few ways teachers use chatbots for feedback:

Draft feedback on student writing. Paste the rubric, paste the draft, ask for specific comments on each criterion. You get a detailed response in seconds that you can then edit and personalize before sharing with the student.

Batch feedback patterns. After grading a class set yourself, paste the five most common issues you noticed and ask the chatbot to generate a class-wide feedback summary you can share with everyone. This saves you from writing the same comments thirty times.

Self-assessment prompts. Give the chatbot your rubric and ask it to generate a set of self-assessment questions students can use to evaluate their own work before submitting. Students get a structured way to reflect, and you get better first drafts.

Revision guidance. After a student receives feedback (from you or from the AI), they can paste their draft and your comments into the chatbot and ask: "Based on this feedback, what should I focus on in my revision?" It turns static feedback into an interactive conversation.

Practice and low-stakes assignments. Grammar exercises, vocabulary checks, reading comprehension responses. These are perfect chatbot territory. Students can get instant feedback on practice work without waiting for you to grade thirty identical worksheets.

The key with chatbots is your prompt. A vague request like "give feedback on this essay" produces vague results. A specific prompt like "Using the attached rubric, evaluate this essay's thesis statement, use of evidence, and paragraph transitions. Keep the tone supportive and suggest one concrete improvement for each area" produces feedback you can actually use.

For those looking for more dedicated platforms built specifically for classroom feedback, here are some interesting options teachers talk about and recommend.

2 Brisk Teaching

[Brisk](#) is a free Chrome extension, and that's a big part of why teachers love it. It works right inside Google Docs, Slides, YouTube, and other tools you're already using. You don't have to learn a new platform or ask students to create new accounts. When a student submits a draft in Google Docs, you can highlight text and get AI-generated feedback comments without ever leaving the document. It also helps generate rubrics, quizzes, and lesson plans, so it pulls double duty. If you're looking for something that adds AI feedback to your existing workflow with zero friction, Brisk is one of the best starting points.

3 Class Companion

[Class Companion](#) works as both an AI tutor and a writing feedback tool designed specifically for classroom use. You set the rubric, students submit their work, and the AI scores and comments based on your criteria. What teachers appreciate about it is the rubric alignment. The feedback sticks closely to what you've defined, which makes

it more consistent and more useful than generic AI comments. It also has a free tier for educators, so you can try it without a budget commitment.

4 CoGrader

[CoGrader](#) is probably the most discussed AI grading tool on teacher forums right now, especially after the 2.0 update. It integrates with Google Classroom, so you can pull in student submissions directly. You upload your rubric, and the AI grades and writes feedback for each student. Teachers report cutting grading time by 50-70%, though most say they still spend time editing the AI's comments to add personal touches and catch the occasional off-target remark. The Google Classroom integration is the big selling point here. If that's your LMS, CoGrader fits right in.

5 MagicSchool AI

[MagicSchool](#) is a comprehensive AI platform with over 60 tools for teachers, and feedback is just one piece of it. It handles rubric generation, writing feedback, lesson planning, IEP support, and more. It also has a student-facing chatbot called Raina that can provide feedback in real time as students work. The breadth is impressive, and the large teacher community around it means you'll find plenty of shared prompts, templates, and tips from other educators who've figured out what works.

6 Gradescope

[Gradescope](#), owned by Turnitin, is built for STEM and handwritten work, which makes it unique on this list. It uses AI to group similar student answers together so you can grade them in batches. Write feedback once for a common mistake, and it applies to every student who made the same error. It's especially strong for math, science, and programming assignments where answers follow patterns. Faculty in higher education report cutting grading time by half or more, and the consistency across student work is a genuine benefit.

7 Formative

[Formative](#) is a real-time assessment platform, and its AI features add instant feedback to the mix. Students see comments and guidance as they work through assignments, not after they submit. That immediacy is valuable for in-class formative assessment where you want students to course-correct in the moment. It's less about detailed essay feedback and more about quick, ongoing check-ins during lessons.

8 Snorkl

[Snorkl](#) takes a different approach entirely. Students record short video or audio explanations of their thinking, and the AI analyzes their verbal responses to provide feedback. It's a great option for assessing understanding beyond written work, especially for students who express themselves better verbally. Teachers on LinkedIn

highlight it for building metacognitive skills, because students have to articulate their reasoning out loud before getting feedback on it.

9 FeedbackFruits

[FeedbackFruits](#) focuses on peer review enhanced by AI. The platform structures the peer feedback process, and the AI helps improve the quality of comments students give each other. It's used primarily in higher education and supports group work assessment, self-assessment, and interactive study materials. If you're interested in the PAIRR model I described earlier, FeedbackFruits is one of the tools that can support that kind of peer + AI feedback combination.

10 SchoolAI

[SchoolAI](#) lets teachers create custom AI "spaces" for students, and each space can be tailored to provide specific types of feedback. You control what the AI focuses on, how it responds, and what guardrails it follows. The teacher dashboard shows you what students are asking and what feedback they're receiving in real time, which gives you visibility without having to review every individual comment.

Limitations You Should Know About

I've spent most of this guide talking about what AI feedback can do, so let me now talk about where it falls short.

AI feedback sounds confident even when it's wrong. This is probably the biggest trap. AI tools write feedback in a polished, authoritative tone regardless of whether the comment is accurate. A student could receive a paragraph of feedback that reads beautifully but completely misreads their argument. Teachers on forums report spending time correcting AI feedback that sounded right on the surface but missed the actual point of the assignment. You can't skim AI output the way you'd skim a colleague's comments. You have to read it critically, every time.

It struggles with anything that requires context. AI doesn't know that your student just moved to a new country last month. It doesn't know that a particular essay represents a breakthrough for a student who hadn't written more than three sentences all semester. It can't factor in the class discussion from Tuesday that shaped how a student approached their argument. All of that context lives with you, and it's often the difference between feedback that helps and feedback that discourages. The deeper and more personal the assignment, the less useful AI feedback becomes on its own.

Bias against multilingual and ESL students is documented. AI feedback tools tend to penalize non-standard grammar, unconventional sentence structures, and writing patterns common among multilingual learners. Teachers report score discrepancies of 15-20% for ESL students compared to native speakers on work of similar quality. The tools aren't intentionally biased, but they're trained on data that reflects a narrow range of English writing conventions, and that shows up in how they evaluate student work.

Creative and original thinking gets undervalued. AI feedback works best when there's a clear right and wrong. Grammar rules, formatting guidelines, structural expectations.

But when a student takes a creative risk, uses an unconventional structure, writes with a distinctive voice, or makes a provocative argument, the AI often flags it as a problem. It reads deviation from the norm as error. That's a real issue in courses that value original thinking, because the feedback can actively discourage the kind of risk-taking you're trying to promote.

It can't replace the relationship. At the end of the day, feedback is a form of communication between two people. A student who knows their teacher read their work, thought about it, and responded with care gets something from that exchange that goes beyond the content of the comments. AI can handle the mechanics of feedback. It can't handle the relationship. And for many students, especially those who are struggling or who feel invisible in school, that relationship is what makes feedback matter.

Conclusion

AI feedback tools are here, and they're only going to get better. The research is encouraging and the tools are maturing fast. But the teachers getting the best results aren't the ones automating everything. They're the ones who treat AI as a drafting partner.

The pattern across everything I've covered in this guide comes down to a simple idea: use AI for volume and speed, and use yourself for depth and connection. Let AI handle the first-pass comments on rough drafts, the grammar checks, the repetitive feedback that eats up your weekends. Then show up where it counts, the revision conversations, the encouraging note on a breakthrough essay, the honest push when a student is capable of more than they're giving you.

Start small. Pick one tool, one assignment type, one class. Build your rubric carefully. Review what the AI gives you. Ask your students what's working. Adjust from there. You don't need to figure this all out at once, and honestly, nobody has. We're all learning how to do this well, and that's fine.

The fact that you're reading a guide like this tells me you care about giving your students better feedback, and that's already the hardest part. The tools are just here to help you do more of what you already do well.

About the Author

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