Critical AI Literacy Questions for the Classroom

Use these questions across grade levels and subject areas whenever students interact with AI tools. They work as whole-class discussion starters, reflection prompts after an AI-assisted task, or criteria in a rubric for evaluating how students engage with AI. Six domains, 24 questions, each designed to push students from passive use toward active, critical engagement. Check out the full guide HERE.

Domain	What It Means	Questions to Ask Students
Output Evaluation	*Can you trust what AI gives you?*	1. How do you know this answer is accurate? 2. What would you need to check before trusting this? 3. Can you find a credible source that confirms or contradicts this output? 4. Does this response sound confident but say very little?
Bias Awareness	*Whose perspective is represented, and whose is missing?*	1. If this model was trained mostly on English-language internet data, what perspectives might be absent? 2. Does this output reflect one cultural viewpoint more than others? 3. Would the answer change if you asked the same question in a different language? 4. Who benefits from the way this answer is framed?
Thinking Ownership	*Is the thinking yours or the machine's?*	1. What did you think about this topic before you asked AI? 2. Can you explain this answer in your own words without looking at it? 3. If I removed the AI output, what would you still know? 4. Did you use AI to help you think, or to think for you?
System Understanding	*Do you understand how this tool actually works?*	1. How does a large language model generate a response? 2. Why does AI sometimes produce confident-sounding wrong answers? 3. Why might two different AI tools give different answers to the same question? 4. What does it mean that AI predicts the next word, not understands the question?
Ethical Awareness	*What are the broader consequences of using this tool?*	1. Whose work was used to train this model, and were they compensated? 2. What are the environmental costs of running AI at scale?

		3. Is it fair to submit AI-generated work as your own? 4. What happens to people whose jobs involve tasks AI can now automate?
Strategic Use	*Are you using AI intentionally, or just taking the path of least resistance?*	1. What is the learning goal of this task, and does using AI support or undermine it? 2. At what point in your process did you bring in AI, and why? 3. Could you have done the difficult thinking first and used AI to refine it? 4. What would you lose by not doing this work yourself?

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