Classroom Thinking of Private Colleges in China: Don't Let AI Empowerment Become Negative Energy

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Abstract: The popularity of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has a profound impact on higher education. College students' dependence on AI has increased in the process of learning, so the effectiveness of learning is a matter of concern. Based on the author's classroom work in teaching practice as a sample, through content analysis and case analysis, this paper draws a conclusion that AI empowers higher education, and students are increasingly dependent on AI. When using AI to complete their homework, only a few students are thinking seriously, and most students adopt "taking doctrine". Students with theoretical homework use AI more frequently and lack thinking. Practical and operational homework, students' use of AI is low, and they think about what they have learned.

Keywords: AI Empowerment; Higher Education; Classroom Evaluation; Private Universities in China

1. Ask Questions

Artificial Intelligence(AI) empowers higher education.China's education modernization 2035 clearly proposes to use modern technology to accelerate the reform of talent training mode and realize the organic combination of large-scale education and personalized training.[]The outline of the plan for building an education power(2024-2035) and the opinions on accelerating the promotion of education digitization both specify that AI needs to be deeply integrated into the field of education to drive the overall change of educational philosophy and practice mode.[]"Artificial intelligence is widely used in college learning situations, and college students' dependence on AI tools continues to rise."[]While AI improves the efficiency of information acquisition and task completion, it may weaken learners' active thinking and deep participation,and lead to potential problems such as reduced learning engagement.[]On this basis, the effectiveness of AI enabled higher education is a matter of concern.Based on the author's teaching experience in a private university in China,this paper analyzes the students' use of AI and considers the problems behind "empowerment".

In this paper, combined with the second semester of 2025-2026,the author taught the college to offer the course of Chinese and foreign image art history for students majoring in digital media art;The situation of offering visual communication courses for students majoring in network and new media is analyzed from the two dimensions of classroom process examination and final examination, and the conclusion is drawn.

2. Analyze The Problem

Analysis of students' practical AI in visual communication course.The course process is assessed through four daily assignments.In the course design,the students in the class are divided into groups of 3-4 people in each group to complete the homework in groups.42 people in the visual communication course are divided into 11 groups.The use of AI in each group is shown in the Figure 1.The AI usage rate of the first, third and fourth operation reached 100%,and the AI usage rate of the second operation was 0.

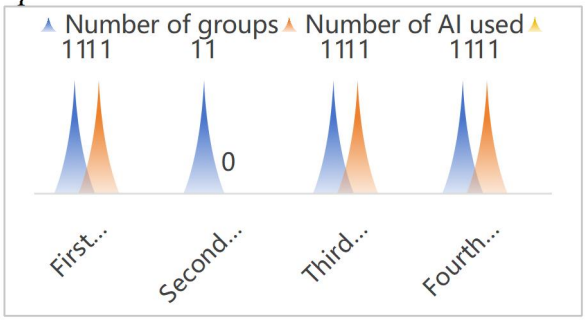

Figure 1. Visual Communication Classroom Assignment AI Usage Table

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There are differences in students' practical AI.There are four assignments for the visual communication course.The first assignment required sorting out the cover of new sports.1950-1955(groups 1 and 9);1955-1966(2 groups,10 groups);1972-1980(groups 3 and 11);1981-1990(4 groups);1991-2000(5 groups);2001-2010(6 groups);2011-2020(7 groups);2021-2026(8 groups).3 years for each time period;(in case of Olympic year,Asian Games year,National Games year,founding year and revision year,you can't skip,but must choose the year);Six times a year.Analyze the changes of visual image of characters,visual image selection of sports events,and visual image of scene and environment.The second operation requires montage to edit different unrelated pictures to generate new meaning images.The third assignment analyzes the visual form and aesthetic style of the cover of new sports according to the sample size of the first assignment.It can analyze the composition and layout of the cover,color aesthetic evolution (using the learned visual rhetoric or symbol analysis),photographic style and image texture,font and visual symbols (using the visual symbol analysis learned in class),such as national symbols and brand symbols.The fourth assignment is to analyze the ideological and cultural values of the cover of new sports according to the sample size of the first assignment.It can analyze the national narrative and national identity of the cover,the change of body concept, gender concept and female image, the spirit of the times and social mentality, and so on.

For the first time, some students finished searching and sorting out old books from the Internet.The analysis part is completed by AI.For the second time, the students' creativity was determined through discussion and the homework was edited.The third and fourth operations are completed by AI.Depending on AI to complete the job performance is different.The first part is to directly feed the literature pictures to the AI model,and copy the analyzed results into the operation.The format and expression of AI will not be modified, which is mainly manifested in the following aspects: the format of the paper is wrong, and there are no spaces in the paragraphs; The language expression of AI model in the paper, such as the AI expression of "individual competition vs collective square", "sports=national construction supporting projects" and "font+symbol system". This shows that the students received the analysis content generated by AI without thinking.

The other part is to rearrange the content generated by AI and change the expression, but retain the habit of AI expression. If the paragraph format is correct, there is no expression of "xx+xx", "xxvsxx", "xx=xx", but it retains the more quoted paradigm generated by AI. Such as the display of "power", "beauty" expression, sports "power and beauty", and so on. This shows that students only adjust the format of AI generated content, but still lack thinking.

In addition, no group of students thought about their homework seriously. For example, the first routine operation requires the analysis of the changes in the visual image of the sample, the visual image selection of sports events, and the visual image of the scene and environment. The sample compiled by students is shown in Figure 2, which is the cover of the 12th issue of new sports in 1992. Students' homework only stays at the "what" level, that is, a simple summary of the changes in characters, sports events and scenes. The analysis of the cover is not deep enough and relies too much on the analysis given by AI. Lack of thinking about "why" layer names. For the five rings logo that appears many times on the cover, the "Olympic" theme title and other elements are not mentioned. For the image of international sports athletes in the cover characters, there is no in-depth thinking. For example, issue 3, issue 5 and issue 11 are all influential athletes in the United States. Why? What is the relationship between this choice and the international environment and sports policy at that time? The students did not think deeply and adopted the analysis given by AI. In this way, the cover documents collected carefully will not be analyzed in depth.



Figure 2. Covers of New Sports in Different Series

Analysis of the use of AI in the final assignment of the course.The final assignment of the visual communication course is a self-designed short

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film with the theme of "box" and at least 3 minutes of shooting.According to the students' requirements, they are divided into 12 groups. In the theme creativity,script,poster design, production and other links,one link uses AI,which is regarded as using AI to complete the homework. As shown in Table 1,the use of AI in the class reached 100%,and 12 groups of students used AI in different links.Qinqiong selling horses was adapted from the classic,and the box was compared to the theater,where qinqiong selling horses was performed."The sound of falling to the ground" is a student's original work,but it is the work of a member of the group who is ready to participate in the competition.It has been slightly modified, barely to the point, and completed.The final assignment requires students to use the theories learned in the visual communication course,such as visual semiotics,to create works with the theme of "box",imagine boldly,and complete works.Students' creativity is not novel enough and lacks depth.12 works, including 4 science fiction themes and 8 realistic themes.Science fiction works have different titles,but their story contents are the same.The symbolic meaning of the box is that people can't sit back and enjoy success,and they can't progress without efforts.In realistic works, the symbolic meaning of the box in qinqiong selling horses is theater,but due to the limitations of props and scenes,the completion degree is poor.In the short films of the realist theme "the box of the secret lover","the Treaty of the box" and "the harmony of the box", the box is a container containing meaningful stories.The science fiction theme "blank" only defines the box as the box itself, that is,the container for storing memories.The box in the secret lover's box is a vessel full of love letters in youth;The box in "blank" is a container for storing things that you have never dared to try;The box in the "box treaty" is a container for storing the youth friendship agreement;Box of full marks:the box appearing out of thin air in the classroom can turn blank textbooks into "full mark answers", but the cost is the replacement of valuable memories.The box in "a tight future" metaphors the shackles of appearance,workplace discipline and closed heart.The box in box and always reflects life.Countless boxes in one's life,piled up,have become the best portrayal of this life.The box in the sound of throwing the ground is filled with utensils of different professions.

Table 1. Use of Final Assignment in Visual Communication Course

Group	Theme creativity	script	Poster Design	type	AI or not
1	Qinqiong Sells Horses	Adapted classics	AI creation	Realism	yes
2	Secret Lover's Box	original	AI creation	Realism	yes
3	Broken Shell	Adapted classics	AI creation	Realism	yes
4	Pandora's Box	Modify after AI	AI creation	science fiction	yes
5	Blank	Modify after AI	AI creation	science fiction	yes
6	Return in a Box	Modify after AI	AI creation	science fiction	yes
7	Box and Always	Modify after AI	AI creation	Realism	yes
8	The Future Seems Tight	Modify after AI	AI creation	Realism	yes
9	Box Appointment	Modify after AI	AI creation	Realism	yes
10	Box of Full Marks	Modify after AI	AI creation	science fiction	yes
11	"Sound on the Ground"	original	AI creation	Realism	yes
12	Box Harmony	Modify after AI	AI creation	Realism	yes

Film posters are mainly used for film marketing, which can give the audience a preliminary impression of the film. They must be able to effectively mobilize the enthusiasm and interest of the audience. Short film poster design should also be able to stimulate the audience's desire to watch.In the poster design of the short film at the end of this course,12 groups of students used AI to create. The specific effect is shown in Fig.7 and 12 posters,of which 10 Posters contain the symbol of the box,and 2 posters do not show the symbol of the box.The promotional posters of science fiction short films have box symbols,and the box is in the visual center of the poster composition.There are boxes and characters in Pandora's box,blank and box of full marks. The characters are in the foreground,background and center of the box respectively.There is no character symbol in the poster of the return in a box,only the box is in the center of the picture.There are 8 posters of short films with realistic themes,including 6 posters with box symbols,2 posters without box symbols,2 posters without short film titles, and 3 posters without character symbols.Among the 6 posters with box symbols,only 4 posters with box symbols and 2

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posters with box and character symbols.The four poster compositions with only the box symbol place the box in the center of the picture.Two posters containing character symbols.In the box of the secret lover,the box symbols are placed in 1/3 of the picture,and the characters in the middle are placed in other parts."The future seems tight" places the person holding the box in the center of the picture.In the posters of "box appointment" and "the future seems" tight ",the theme of the short film is presented in the form of text in order to present the name of the short film.Two posters without box symbols.The poster "broken shell" contains mirror symbols and character symbols.The mirror is divided into two parts,half of which are women with heavy makeup and half of which are women with light makeup.The poster is designed by presenting the theme of the short film.The subway and character symbols are included in the sound of falling to the ground,reflecting the significance of choice.Only two of these posters can stimulate the audience's desire to watch.

The film poster should reflect the cultural connotation of the film and highly summarize the content of the film. Among the 12 posters,only 3 posters explained the content of the short film through words, namely,the box of the secret lover, broken shell and qinqiong selling horses.And the posters that can attract the attention of the audience are also two of them.Students design short film posters through AI,lack of thinking,and it is difficult to design high-quality posters.

Analysis on the use of AI by students in the course of history of Chinese and foreign image art.This course selects the first daily assignment in the daily assignment for analysis.The use of AI for the completion of daily assignments in the course is as follows,and the use of AI by all staff is as shown in Figure 3.There are 4 classes of digital media art major in the course,which are divided into 14 groups.There are 1 group in the first shift,5 groups in the second shift,6 groups in the third shift and 2 groups in the fourth shift.The AI rate of the first peacetime operation is 100%.

The first assignment of the course is to analyze the characteristics of French Neo realistic films, watch desica's "the man who stole the bicycle" and Wang Xiaoshuai's "the 17-year-old bicycle" and compare the similarities and differences between them. In order to verify whether students think independently, the author writes Italian Neo realism into French Neo realism. Before the homework was handed in, none of the students took the initiative to question it. Among the assignments that have been handed in, only one group of students questioned in the assignment, and the other students used the expression of model generation. For example, the wrong expression in students' homework: the characteristics of "French Neo realist film". There is also a lack of reflection on the work "the bicycle thief". In the following second and third assignments, students presented the same problems.

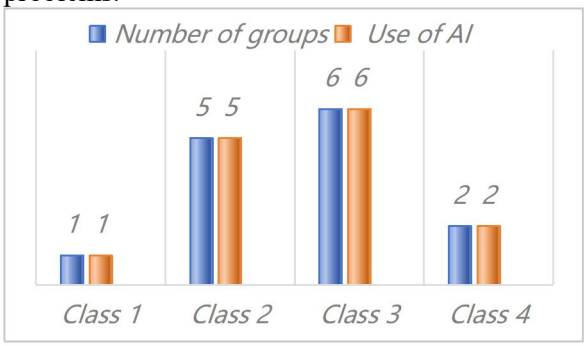

Figure3. The Use of AI by Chinese and Foreign Students in the History of Image Art in Their First Daily Assignment

In order to make students think and avoid relying only on AI,the author set the fourth assignment as a practical creation assignment.That is,choose one of the first generation to the sixth generation directors in China, and explain the reasons for the development of the image in a specific period,the image style, the representative characters and works through the creative video.The video should be at least 3 minutes.The end of the film shows the division of the group.(3 minutes excluding the beginning and end of the film)the team members have at least one student who participates in the presentation of short videos and can appear in images and sounds.Through the feedback of the recovered homework, the videos of 14 groups of students are all collected through materials-edited into films-voiced by group members.At the stage of collecting materials,especially the text manuscript of the short film,14 groups of students completed it through AI.The short video materials can not be well completed by AI. Students can complete them through various channels,then edit and dub them.According to students' feedback,such homework arrangement takes a long time,but the harvest is great. One of the most important reasons is that students

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cannot let AI directly generate the final required video data. For example,when the group chooses the interpretation of the sixth generation directors,it must first inquire about the information about the sixth generation directors to ensure the accuracy of the information; Secondly,what perspective is used as the starting point to attract the audience to watch the video;Thirdly,what kind of pictures are needed to complete the interpretation of knowledge;Finally, you need to add the voice of the group members or perform in the short film.When using AI to assist in the completion of homework,the implementation of each step requires students to think repeatedly,verify the accuracy,and complete dubbing. The team members who provide the material need to repeatedly determine the accuracy of the knowledge,the editing team members need to understand the meaning and relevance of the knowledge of each line,and the dubbing team members need to be familiar with the manuscript.In this way, all the staff have a profound grasp of the knowledge points of the operation,and at the same time,the image history is disseminated in the form of short videos.

The final examination is to analyze the influence of Chinese film styles in different periods learned in the course, and the representative works of representative figures on Chinese films,as well as the creative characteristics of contemporary film works affected by them(narrative, shooting, aesthetics, etc.).for example,the influence of CAI Chusheng,the representative of left-wing films, on Contemporary Chinese films,and the analysis of the creative characteristics of love letter to grandma.The content can include narrative theme,characters,aesthetic style,etc.Note:students can choose their own works.The AI utilization rate of students in the final examination is 93%,as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. AI Usage of Students in the Final Examination of History of Chinese and Foreign Image Art Course

Group	SelectedtoPic	Whether to Use AI	Whether the duplicate check report has original text comparison
1	Echo across the century: the change of realism from "Yu Guang Qu" to "love letter to grandma"	YES	NO
2	Realistic aesthetics of Xie Jin's films	YES	NO
3	Inheritance of left wing film style and analysis of contemporary creative characteristics	YES	NO
4	Light, film and salary: the historical context and contemporary continuation of the Centennial Chinese film style	YES	NO
5	Analysis of two creative paradigms of silent film in early China--A comparison between the love of labor and the story of orphans saving their ancestors	YES	YES
6	The contemporary continuation and innovation of 17 years' realistic image paradigm--Take "Lin family shop" and "life events" as examples	YES	YES
7	From "Yu Guang Qu" to "love letter to grandma": Contemporary inheritance of left wing film spirit	NO	YES
8	On the artistic inheritance of Feng Xiaogang's Fanghua from Xie Jin's "reflective film"	YES	NO
9	The aesthetic inheritance of early spring in February and the creation of realistic theme of love of mountains and seas	YES	NO
10	The contemporary influence of the golden age of audio movies	YES	NO
11	From closed courtyard to open field: A comparative study on the spatial narrative of "the red lantern hangs high" and "hidden in the dust"	YES	NO
12	Puzzle time and space and folding dream: A comparative study of nonlinear narrative and image aesthetics between "blood in the morning" and "roadside picnic"	YES	NO
13	The cross generational writing of the mirror image of the times research on the inheritance and innovation of satirical realism in "stop at red light, go at green light" and "annual meeting can not stop"	YES	NO
14	How can spring continue -- Poetic Aesthetic inheritance from "spring in a small town" to "Spring River warm"	YES	YES

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There is only one group of students in the class who complete it by themselves,and the other groups of students rely on AI.According to the syllabus, the final paper needs to provide the article replication rate and AI rate.The final paper of students,AI replication has become the hardest hit area.The main performance is as follows:first,the paradigm of AI writing is the same.Such as"XX"+"XX". Second,the non paragraph format copied by AI.If there is no space before each paragraph,copy the article generated by AI directly.Third,the content of AI generated articles is illogical and knowledge is wrong.The more serious problem is the third one.According to the requirements of the final examination,the topics selected by the two groups of students did not meet the meaning of the topic.An analysis of the two creation paradigms of silent films in early China--a comparison between love of labor and saving the ancestors of orphans,and aesthetic inheritance in early spring and February and creation of realistic themes in mountain and sea love.The story of saving the ancestors of orphans is not a contemporary film and does not meet the requirements of the title.The film version of shanhaiqing is a dramatic film,and the content analysis of the paper is the stills of the TV version of shanhaiqing.

The paper "echoes across the century: the realist evolution from" Yu Guang Qu "to" love letter to grandma "has the following errors:" love letter to grandma squeezed the story into a trip to South Korea, but the narrative logic of the two is surprisingly similar - both of them connect the social cross-section through the movement of space, and both belong to the generalized "road piece" structure. ""Love letter to grandma" and "Yu Guang Qu" are not road movies. At the same time, "love letter to grandma" is not a trip to South Korea. This is obviously wrong. There are many similar analyses without logical errors in the paper.

3. Conclusion and thinking

Based on the analysis of students' AI in the two courses,the following conclusions are drawn.First,AI empowers higher education, and students are increasingly dependent on AI.Students in the two courses use AI to complete more than 90% of their homework.Second,when using AI to complete homework, only a few students are thinking seriously,and most students adopt "taking doctrine".What AI gives,what students trust. Third,the students' use of AI in theoretical homework is more than 90%,and they are lack of thinking.Practical and operational homework,students' use of AI is low,and they think about what they have learned.

Generative AI,with its efficient algorithm,enables higher education and becomes a shortcut for students to complete their homework.However, the problem behind taking the shortcut has become prominent.The content of classroom assessment has become AI rapid production,which is not the result of students' thinking.College Students' thinking about knowledge is replaced by algorithms,and AI empowerment quietly turns into negative energy with low ability.The deep crisis is the degradation of thinking and cognitive ability.The root of this phenomenon lies in the dislocation of teaching evaluation.At present,college homework generally focuses on results rather than processes and norms rather than innovations,which is just in line with the standard answer that AI is good at producing neat structures and mediocre views.When students respond to such assignments with AI, they actually respond to the utilitarian orientation of the evaluation system with instrumental rationality.Writing is never just expression,but also the process of thinking training, that is, the repeated deduction when conceiving the framework, the fine balance when choosing words and sentences,and the logical test when advancing the argument.These "hard labor of thinking" are the only way for cognitive growth.Once skipping these links,students will lose the cultivation soil of critical thinking and problem consciousness.

The way to break the situation is to rebuild the boundaries of human-computer cooperation.Teachers should redefine the value of homework,design tasks that are difficult for AI, individualized life narrative, impromptu speculation on classroom situations,and empirical analysis based on first-hand research.The evaluation criteria also need to be transformed, from results to process examination, and pay attention to the depth of thinking.In the process of human-computer cooperation,students' questions should be paid attention to,so that the thinking process itself can be seen and valued.

The wave of technology is irreversible. To hold the defense line of thinking is not to reject tools,

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but to make it clear that AI is the scaffolding of thinking, not a substitute for thinking. The real mission of the university classroom is always to cultivate the critical consciousness and creative spirit of "not being algorithmized" - this is the last bastion of human intelligence, and it is also an inalienable responsibility of education.

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