

Module 7: Wisdom

Time required: 45-60 minutes

This module teaches students to distinguish between "processing information" (what AI does) and "exercising judgment" (what humans do).

Learning objectives – help students to:

- Differentiate between AI-generated options and wise human choices
- Apply four filters of wisdom (reality, identity, empathy and durability) to a complex problem
- Recognize that AI can generate solutions, but only humans can validate them and then accept responsibility for their choices

Materials:

- Student devices with access to a GenAI tool
- Copies of the "Panning for Gold" worksheet (pg. 4)

Lesson Overview

THE DECISION-MAKER

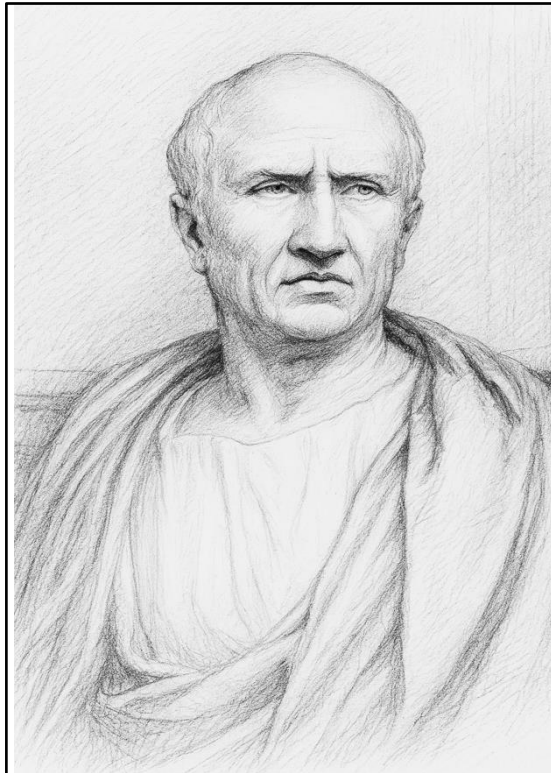
Sharpen your judgment so you can make wise choices that are aligned with your values



AI provides details, options and probabilities. Humans provide judgment. In a world of infinite information, wisdom is the art of subtraction – washing away the noise to find the truth.

Helping students develop the skills of "The Decision-Maker" means teaching them ways to act as a filter. AI produces an endless river of possibilities. Their job is not to accept all options, but to apply rigorous criteria – reality, identity, empathy and durability — to separate fool's gold from the real thing.

Cicero
106 – 43 BC



Roman statesman, orator
and writer, renowned for his
influence on Western rhetoric
and political theory

“The foremost of all virtues is wisdom ... for by prudence we understand the practical knowledge of things to be sought for and of things to avoid.”

From: "[de Officiis](#)" Book I.43.153

Published: 44 BC

- Cicero distinguished between scientia (knowledge) and prudentia (wisdom/judgment). Knowing facts is easy; knowing what to do with them – what to seek and what to avoid – is the hard work of being human.
- AI gives us infinite outputs. It can generate emails, essay topics or business plans in seconds. But it cannot tell us which ones are wise. AI lacks the moral compass to know what should be avoided. That burden falls on us.

Engage the class

Start the conversation: "When you ask AI for advice, it gives you lots of information and options. How do you know which part is useful and wise and which part is misleading or misguided? Do you have a filter, or do you just guess?"

Let's go: "Today, we are going to learn how to pan for gold. We will take a large set of AI suggestions and wash them until only the wise choice remains."

EXERCISE

PANNING FOR GOLD

**Introduction (5 minutes)**

Explain the metaphor: AI can provide the quantity (the river mud). You provide the quality (the skilled filtering action with a gold pan).

The "River Mud" Phase (10 minutes)

Have students use AI to generate five solutions to a difficult, realistic problem (e.g., "I am overwhelmed by my workload and need to drop a commitment," or "I need to choose a topic for my capstone project").

The Result: The AI will give a mix of generic, cliché and occasionally good advice.

The "Washing" Phase (25 minutes)

Have students run the AI's options through the four filters.

Reality Filter: Is this factually true and practically possible?

Identity Filter: Does this align with my values and voice?

Empathy Filter: Does this respect the dignity of others?

Durability Filter: Will this choice hold up in five years?

The Nugget (5 minutes)

Ask: "What is left? Did you find one idea that passed all four tests? That is the gold."

The Panning for Gold Wisdom Filter

The decision I am facing: _____

Step 1: The Mud (AI output) – List the AI-generated options and ideas

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Step 2: The Wash (apply the filters) – Cross out options that fail these tests

- **Reality:** Is this practical?
- **Identity:** Does this sound like me?
- **Empathy:** Does this respect others?
- **Durability:** Will this solve the problem in the long run?

The Gold (wise choice)

What remains? _____

Note: If none of the options remain, you need to find different options.

1

Cicero argues that wisdom (*prudentia*) is more important than mere knowledge (*scientia*) because it involves knowing what to seek and what to avoid. In today's world—where information is instantly accessible—do you think we value knowledge more than wisdom?

2

Filter 2 is "Identity." Why is it so easy to accept an AI solution that doesn't fit your values just because it's convenient? Does speed make us compromise our identity?

3

Filter 3 is "Empathy." Can an AI ever truly pass the empathy check? Or is considering the feelings of others the one thing that will always require a human in the loop?

4

Filter 4 is "Durability." AI optimizes for the immediate answer. Why is the "quick fix" often the enemy of the wise solution? Can you think of a time you chose a quick fix and regretted it?

5

If you apply these filters and nothing is left, what does that tell you about the ability of AI and the role you play in making wise choices?

Reflective assessment

How well did this module enable students to:

- Critically evaluate multiple options rather than accepting the first one?
- Apply a structured framework (filters) to decision-making?
- Identify the specific weaknesses of generic AI advice?

How can you build on this module to help students trust their own judgment?



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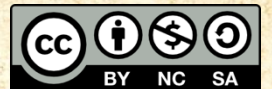
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