

Leading Schools in the Age of AI:

Ban It, Build with it, or Guide it!

The Den Talk

Facilitated by Marlene Rookwood



Today's Session at a Glance

1. Opening

Introduction, Parking Lot, Mentimeter Poll

5-8 min

2. Grounding

Norms & shared language

5 min

3. Reflection

We've been here before!

5 min

4. Define

What is AI?

5 min

5. Activity

Ban It or Build With It?

25 min

6. Closing

Policy, 5 Whys & Guide It

5 min

What word describes how you feel about AI?

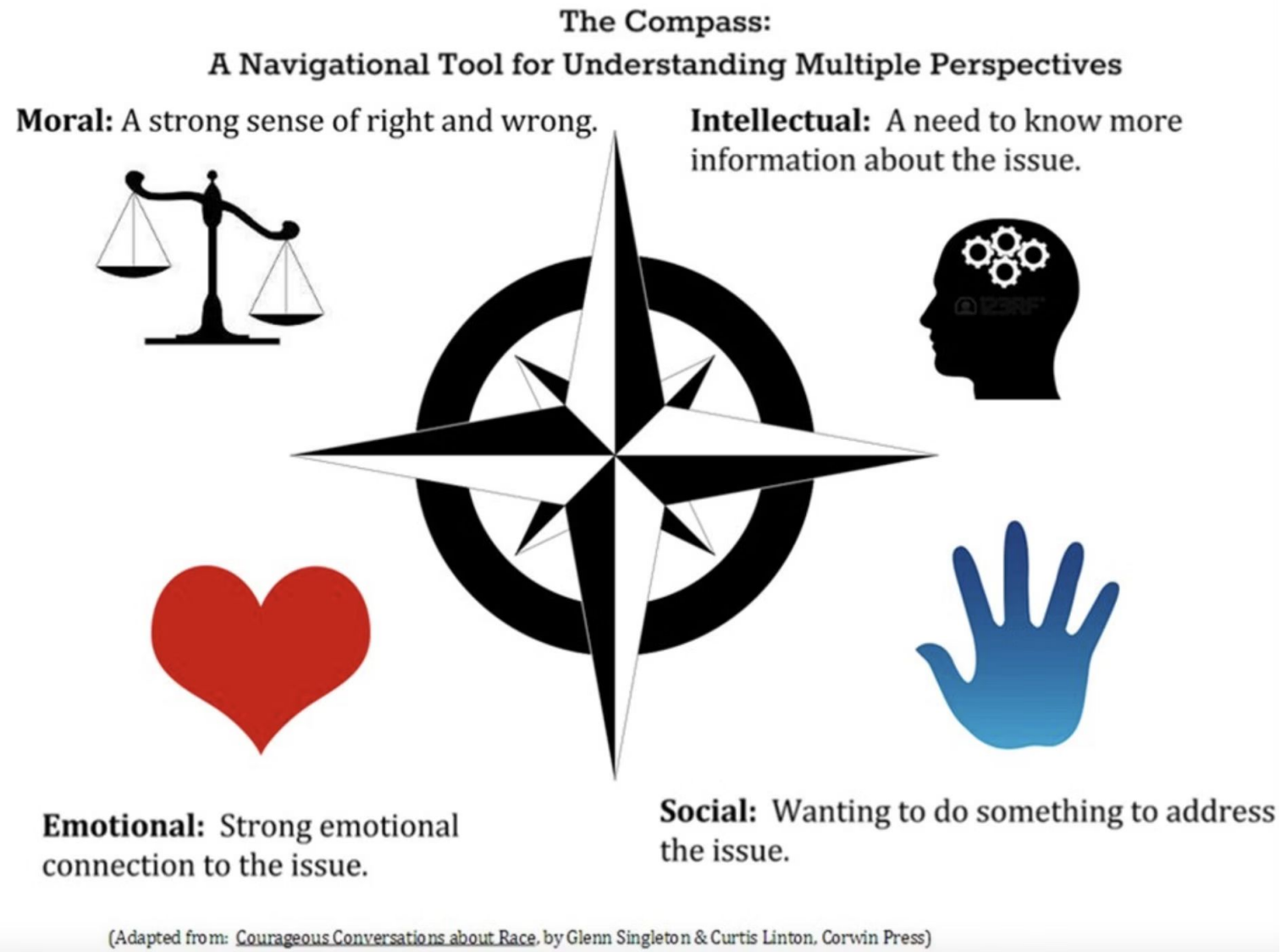
Take 60 seconds, scan the QR code and submit **one word** that describes how you feel about AI in schools today.



 [Open Mentimeter Poll](#)

Grounding Our Conversation

- We enter this space from different perspectives ; that's a strength, not a barrier
- Guided by the **Courageous Conversations Compass**: maintain an inquiry stance and accept non-closure
- We are here as learners, not experts





We've Been Here Before..

1

Calculators

Questioned, restricted, eventually embraced as essential tools for mathematical reasoning.

2

Google

Blocked in classrooms, then accepted once we taught students how to evaluate sources.

3

Other examples????

What Is AI?



Working Definition

AI is technology that allows machines to mimic human intelligence, making decisions, solving problems, and performing tasks normally done by humans.

For today's conversation, we're focused on **generative AI tools** students and teachers are already using in classrooms.

[!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\) Source: Built In — "What Is Artificial Intelligence?"](#)



ACTIVITY

Ban It or Build With It?

A leadership decision framework for navigating AI in your schools.

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The Leadership Decision

When it comes to AI in schools, leaders are facing fundamental decision making.

Ban It

Restrict access, protect academic integrity, reduce risk.

Build With It

Integrate intentionally, develop AI literacy, and prepare students for the future.

Collaborative Consensus- Take a stance.

Discuss

Apply a leadership lens to each scenario. What would you actually do in your school?

Consensus

Reach a table agreement. Are you Ban It or Build With It?

Share Out

Hold up your paddle and be ready to explain your reasoning to the room.

 **Green Paddle = Build With It**  **Red Paddle = Ban It**

SCENARIO 1

Student Writing Submission

- A student uses AI to brainstorm and outline an essay. The core thesis is their own, but the structure and some phrasing were generated by the AI.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It** — What's your call, and what policy guides you?

Teacher Planning



The Situation

A teacher uses AI to write lesson plans, differentiate reading materials for IEPs, and draft emails to parents. Their workload becomes instantly manageable.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It**

What's your call, and what policy guides you?

SCENARIO 3

AI Tutoring Tool

- A struggling student uses a free AI tutor at home, and their grades and confidence skyrocket. However, many students in the district lack internet access at home.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It** — What's your call, and what policy guides you?

SCENARIO 4

The AI Detector

- A student submits a final project that a teacher strongly suspects was written by AI. Because AI detectors are notoriously unreliable, the teacher cannot prove it.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It** — What's your call, and what policy guides you?

SCENARIO 5

Research Assignment

- Students use AI to research "influential historical leaders." The AI generates a list that heavily favors one demographic and completely leaves out marginalized voices.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It** — What's your call, and what policy guides you?

SCENARIO 6

Valid Accommodation or Advantage?

- An English Language Learner uses AI to translate and scaffold their ideas into English before writing. Their class participation and assignment completion increase dramatically.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It** — What's your call, and what policy guides you?

SCENARIO 7

Administrative Ethics & Privacy

- A principal uses an AI assistant to turn their rough classroom observation notes into formal teacher evaluation reports, saving hours of time.

 **Ban It**  **Build With It** — What's your call, and what policy guides you?



Inquiry

From the activity to action:

What does leadership actually require of us? What are some questions you are still sitting with?

Some Questions Worth Sitting With....

- 1 Where might banning AI limit student learning?
- 2 Where are guardrails absolutely necessary?
- 3 What should AI literacy look like in our schools?
- 4 Should students graduate knowing how to use AI effectively?
- 5 What concerns do you still holding as a school leader?

 [Explore the 5 Whys AI Edu Tool](#)

The 5 Whys AI Edu Tool: Dig Deeper!

How to Access It

SCAN TO OPEN



whys5aiedu.lovable.app

Open your phone or laptop browser

Scan the QR code → or go to: whys5aiedu.lovable.app

Choose a topic, enter your first "Why," and let the tool guide you deeper

 Use this tool and enter one of today's big questions and see where the 5 Whys takes you.

 <https://whys5aiedu.lovable.app/>

Final Thought: Guide It!

Listen
Now

Scan the QR code
to hear the audio message



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Marlene Rookwood

Transformative Leader | Advancing Equity Through AI & Data, Building Sustainable Systems, Amplifying Skills and Voices

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 Thank You for Being Here!

Please don't leave until you've completed the ThoughtExchange survey — your voice shapes what comes next!

Fill out a
quick survey
here:





Parking Lot



Keep Learning! Resources

Articles & Frameworks

-  [AI Literacy Framework](#)
-  [The History of AI: A Timeline](#) — Coursera
-  [GenAI in Education: When to Use It, When to Skip It](#) — Digital Promise

Videos & Podcast

-  [How to Use AI Ethically in the Classroom](#) [4:57]
-  [Ethical Considerations of AI in the Classroom](#) — PBS [5:04]
-  [AI Detectors Falsely Accuse Students of Cheating](#) — Big Take Podcast [14:00]

From the **AiELC Spring 2026** resource collection





AI Tools I Use & Recommend

-  [Mentimeter](#) — Live polls & word clouds for real-time audience engagement
-  [Gamma](#) — AI-powered presentation and document creation
-  [5 Whys AI Edu Tool](#) — Root cause thinking tool designed for educators

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THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



ClassDojo



alongside



Allegheny
Educational Systems



SpacesEDU
by myBlueprint



NERIC
Northeastern Regional
Information Center
A DIVISION OF CAPITAL REGION ROCS



Gaia Scholastic



LEGO education

Steelcase
LEARNING



EducatorEdge
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT OLSTERBOES

THANK YOU!

