



# From Classroom to Career: Industry Perspectives on Essential AI Literacy Skills

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CTE Teacher and JTS Instructional Designs Owner

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# Meet the Panel



**Luis Abbott**

HP  
Americas Region Site Services IT Leader Houston,  
TX



**Evan Shieh**

Young Data Scientists League  
AI Ethics Researcher and Educator /  
Executive Director



**Maaz Amjad**

Texas Tech University  
Assistant Professor of Practice, CS



**Bobby Simmons**

HPC Industrial | Powered by Clean Harbors  
Branch Manager, Freeport, TX



**Tiphany Burrell**

Young Women's Preparatory Network  
Development Manager - Houston



**Jennifer Simmons, Moderator**

JTS Instructional Designs, LLC, Owner and  
Facilitator

CTE Teacher  
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# Parking Lot

Please log on to this link to write your questions on the Parking Lot

<https://canva.link/2j1wmgraf6ncro0>





# Round 1



# Higher Education Expert

How are universities preparing students to be 'Generalists'—people who can use AI to work across different fields like art, science, and business simultaneously?



## Tech Industry Expert:

We are seeing a shift from 'task-oriented' work to 'outcome-oriented' work. When you're looking at new talent, how much do you value a person's ability to clearly define a problem versus their ability to use a specific software tool?



# AI Ethics Researcher

AI can be very persuasive even when it's wrong.

How do we teach students to have a 'Quality Control' mindset?

What are the red flags they should look for when a machine gives them an answer?



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# K12 Development Manager

If the 'blank page' is no longer a barrier for students, how do we shift our teaching to focus on Strategic Planning?

How do we help students realize that the tool is only as good as the instructions they give it?



# Industrial Services Manager

In industrial services, we're seeing a shift where even field roles are becoming data-driven. When you are looking at new talent for your teams, how has the 'must-have' skill list changed? Are you looking for people who can follow a manual, or people who can manage the automated systems that now write those manuals?





# Round 2



# AI Ethics Researcher/K12 Dev. Manager

In the professional world, 'The AI made a mistake' isn't an excuse. How do we build a culture in our schools where students take personal ownership over what a machine produces for them?



## Tech Industry Expert / Industrial Services Mgr:

From your perspective in the industrial world, what is one 'soft skill' that you wish K12 teachers would double down on to ensure students are ready for the modern workforce?



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# Higher Education

As we rely more on these tools, how do we ensure students don't lose the ability to think for themselves? Where is the line between 'assistance' and 'replacement' of thought?



# Industrial Services

At a company like CleanHarbors, a mistake isn't just a typo, it's a safety risk. When a system provides a safety recommendation or an optimized route, how do you train your team to 'audit' that information? How do we teach students that 'The computer said so' is never a valid excuse in a high-stakes environment?





# Questions from the parking lot





# Round 3



# K12 Development Manager

How do we make sure that students who don't have the latest devices at home aren't left behind in this new 'AI-Native' economy?



# Industrial Services

Many of our students might start in entry-level field roles. How does 'AI Literacy'—the ability to interact with and lead these tools—provide a faster ladder for a worker to move from a technician role into a management or leadership position at a company like yours?



# Higher Education

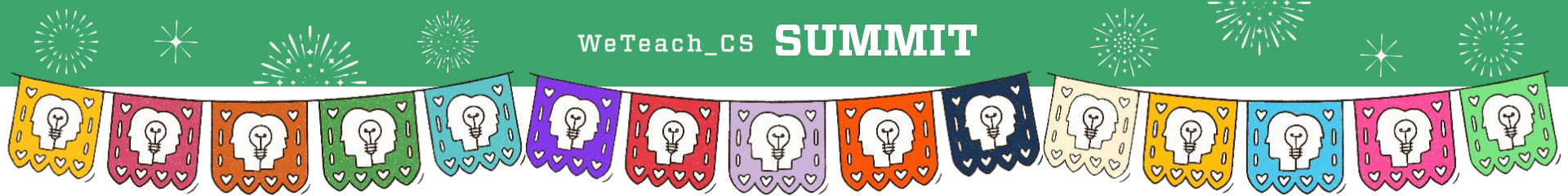
Tools change every month. How do we teach students to be comfortable with 'not knowing' and give them the confidence to learn new systems on the fly?



# Tech Industry Expert

Is it fair to say that clear writing and clear speaking are now the most important 'technical' skills a student can have?





## **Final thoughts:**

AI isn't a new subject to study; it's a new way to work. By focusing on communication, verification, and ethics, we aren't just teaching technology, we're teaching leadership.

Thank you for being part of this conversation.

