

the learning ideas conference

Reimagining Education with Custom Bots: A Student-Centered Approach

Wednesday, June 11th, 2025



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<https://linktr.ee/csilvasibilin>



shorturl.at/vPmmd

Entrance Ticket

THINK-PAIR-SHARE!

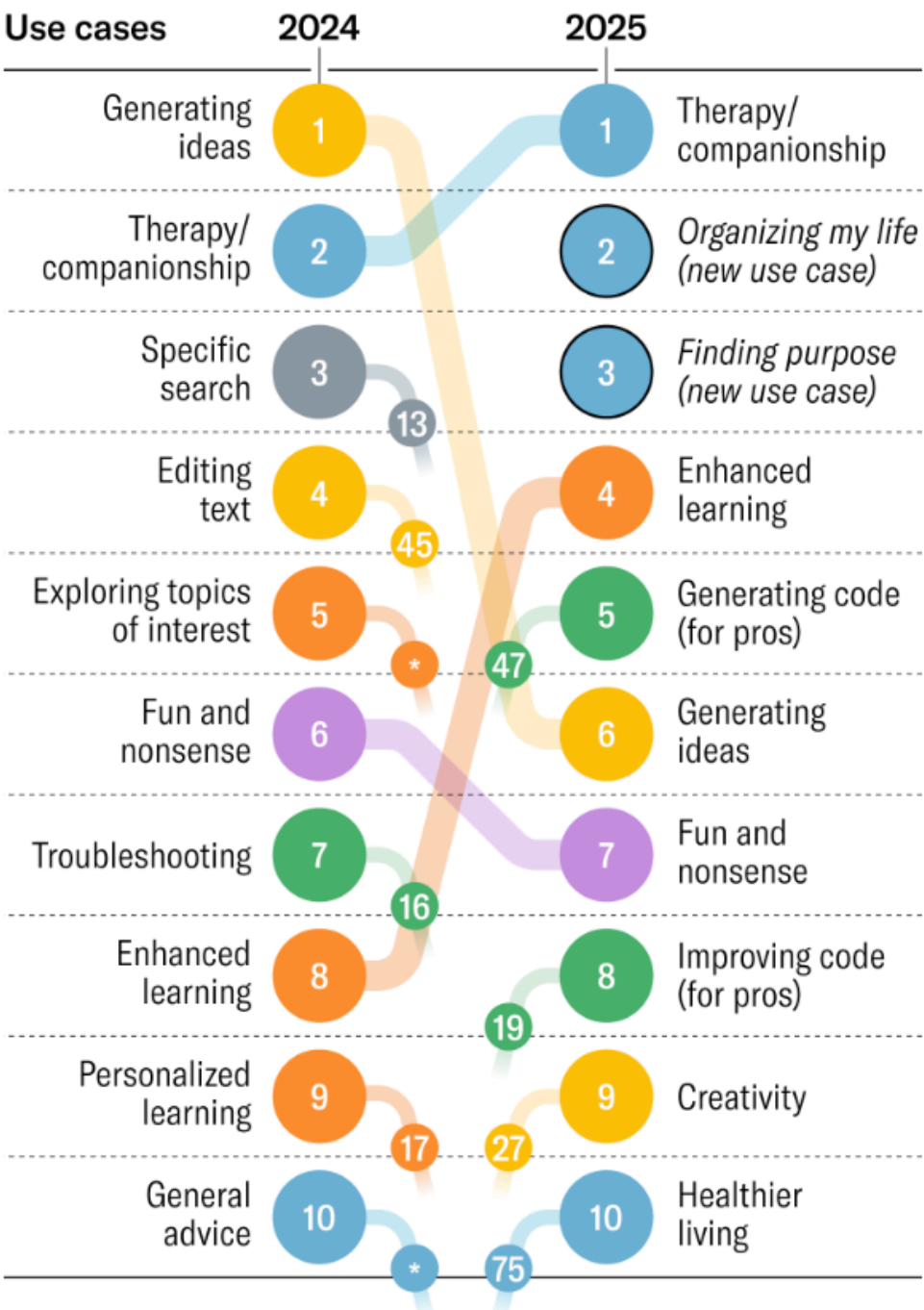
- **How often** do you use LLM chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT)?
- Do you think of the chatbot / prompt it with certain **roles or jobs** (e.g. “you are a coach”)?
- Which roles does it do **best** and **worst** at?

Top 10 Gen AI Use Cases

The top 10 gen AI use cases in 2025 indicate a shift from technical to emotional applications, and in particular, growth in areas such as therapy, personal productivity, and personal development.

Themes

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING
CONTENT CREATION AND EDITING	CREATIVITY AND RECREATION
LEARNING AND EDUCATION	RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND DECISION-MAKING



<https://hbr.org/2025/04/how-people-are-really-using-gen-ai-in-2025>



Sibilin, C. S. (2023).

Education and the Epistemological Crisis in the Age of ChatGPT.

Critical Review, 35(4), 414-425.

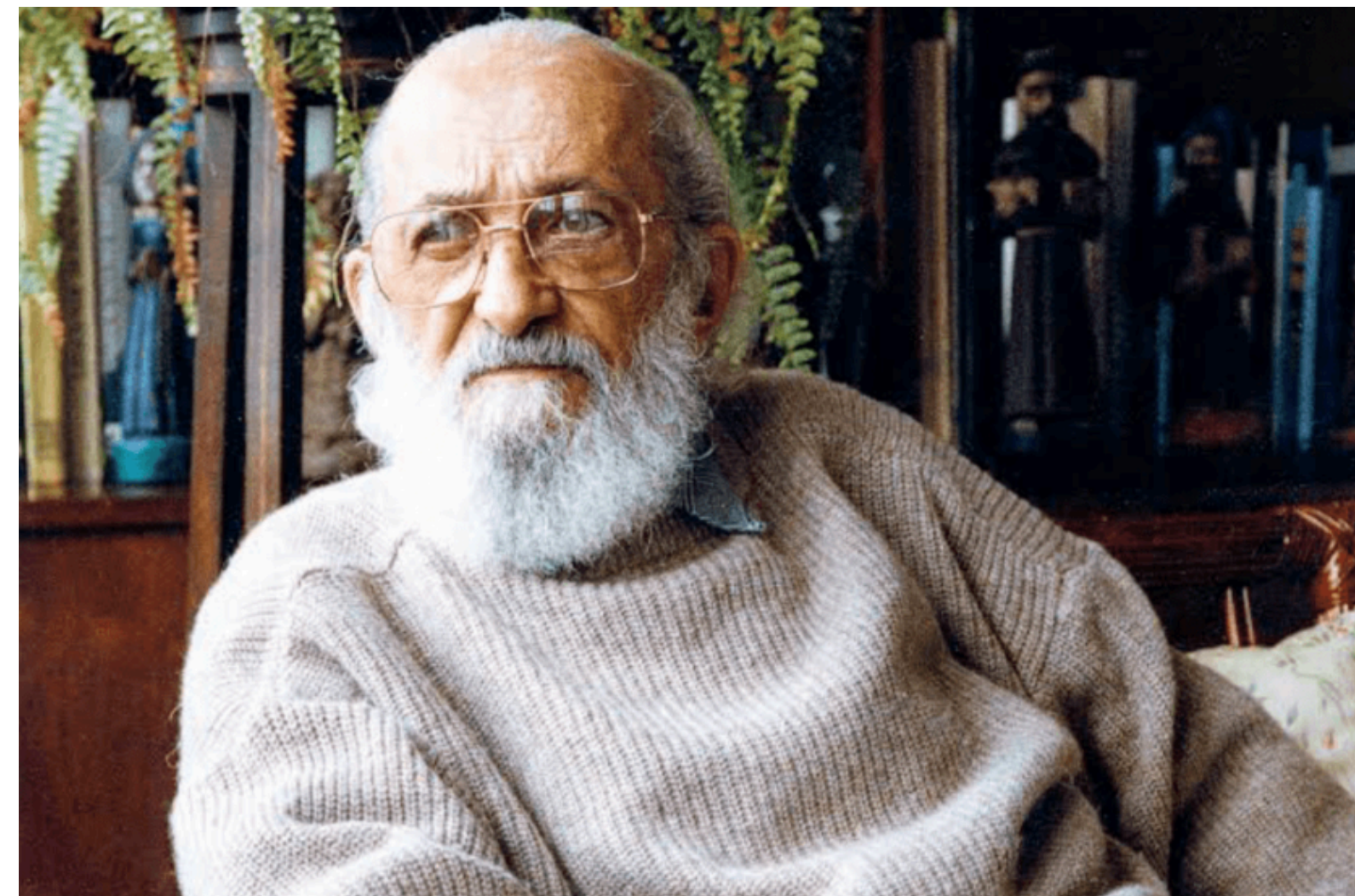
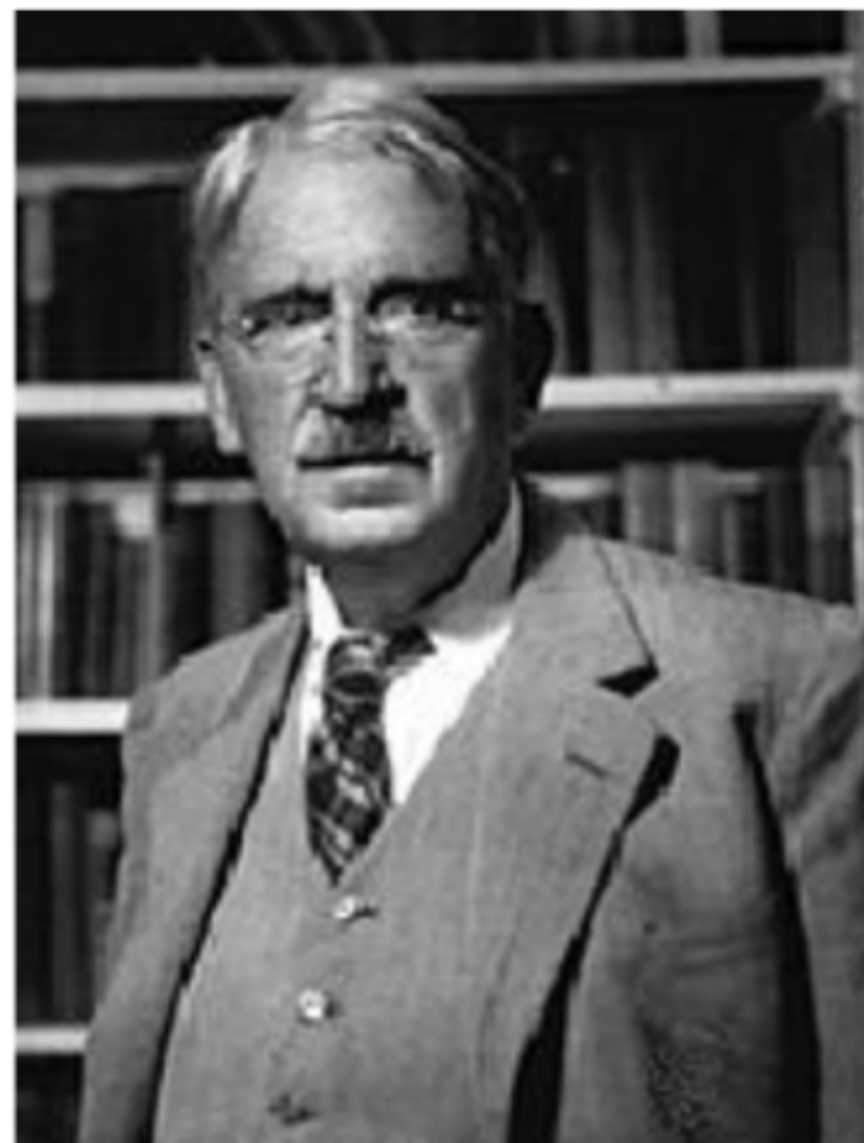
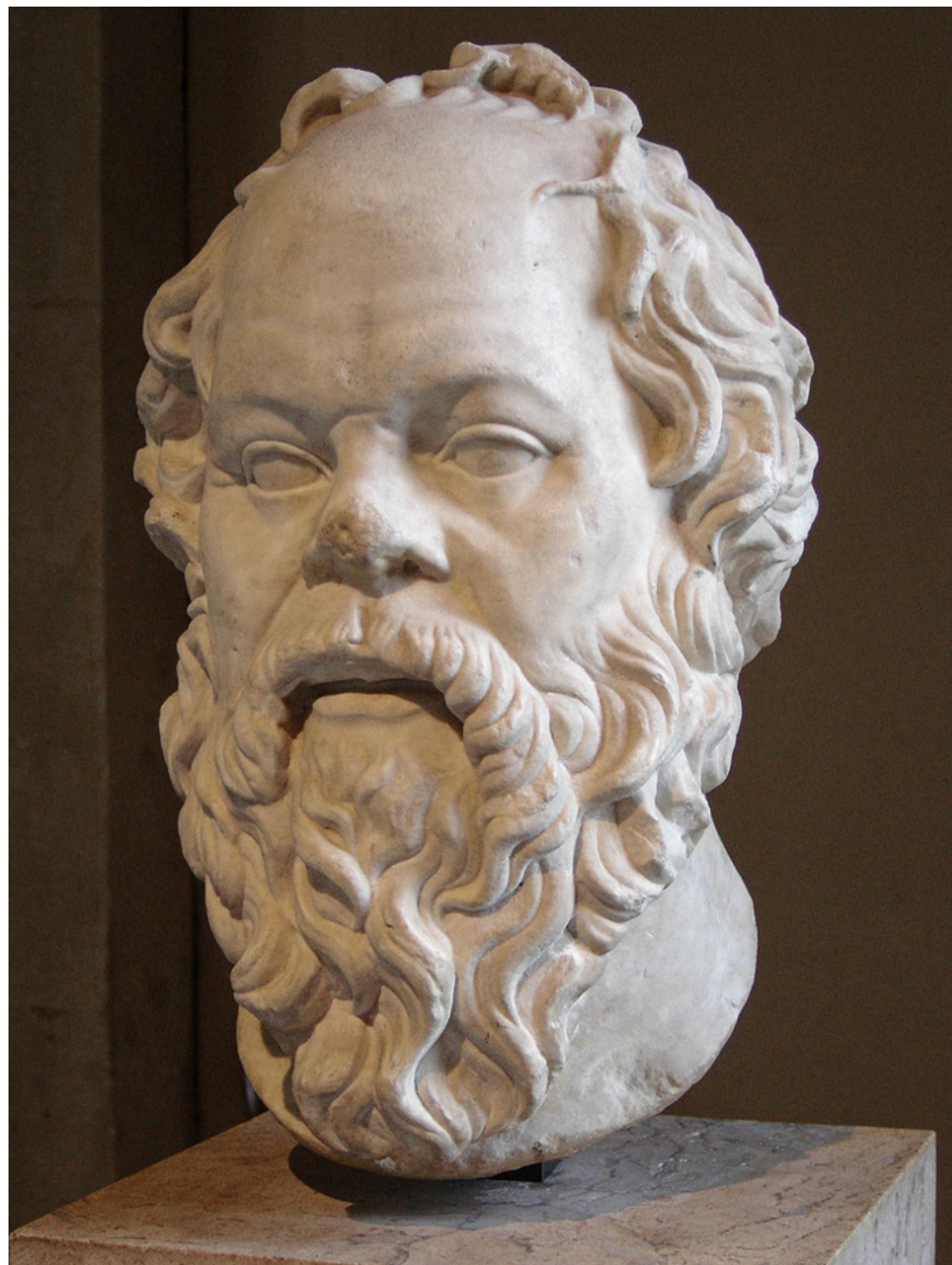
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08913811.2023.2284042>

“[I]nstructors were able to guess which one was written by ChatGPT only 70% of the time (compared to 60% for students and 63% for ChatGPT).”

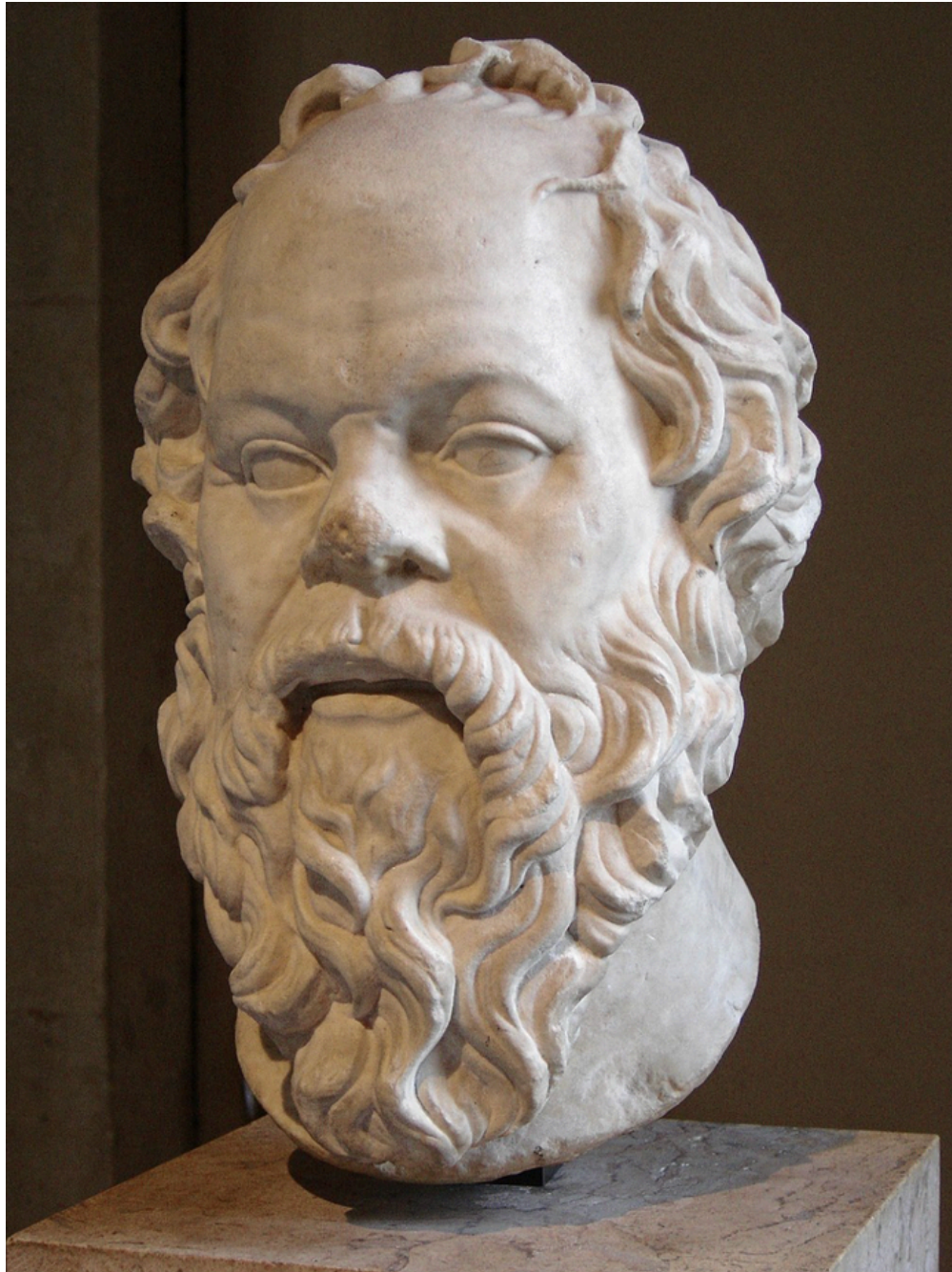
Can you spot the bot? Identifying AI-generated writing in college essays (Waltzer and Heyman 2024)

“We found that writing instructors have a moderate level of confidence in their ability to distinguish between student and AI- generated writing but a low level of accuracy—only 35% of instructors could correctly identify the authorship of all four essays.”

Can instructors detect AI-generated papers? Postsecondary writing instructor knowledge and perceptions of AI (Murray and Tersigni 2024)



Socrates



....he has taught you the habit of answering questions in a grand and bold style...

I literally do not know what virtue is, and much less whether it is acquired by teaching or not.'

Plato, Meno

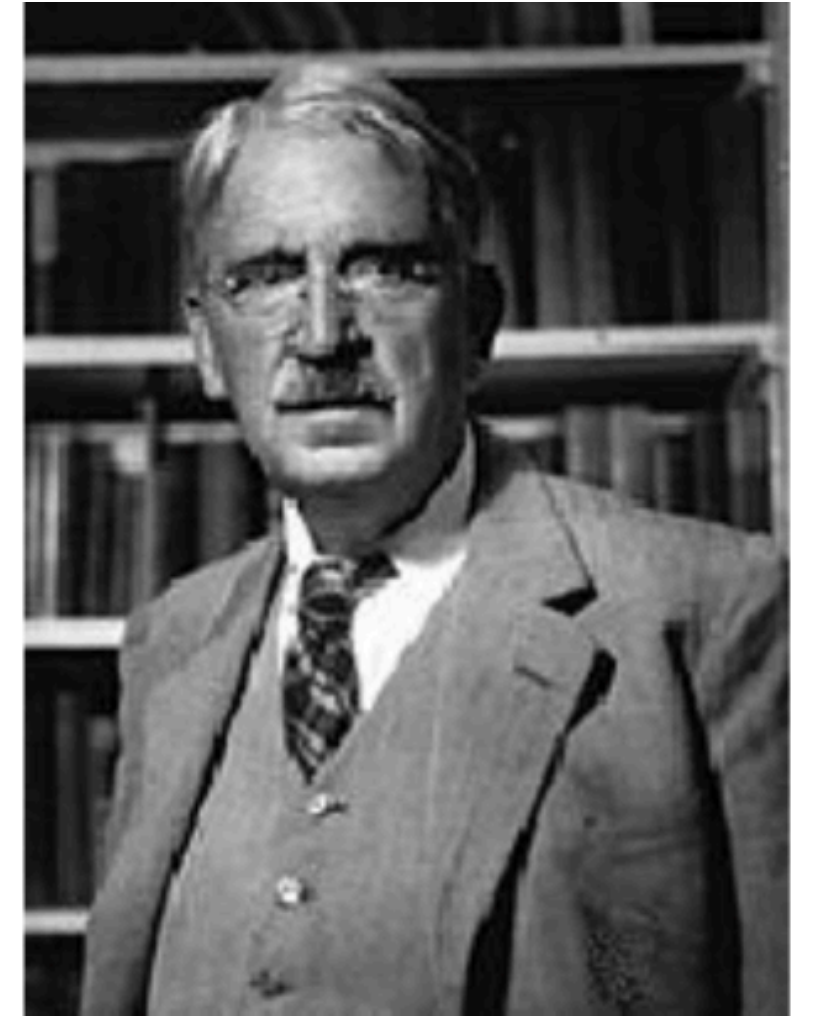


Generated with ChatGPT 4o

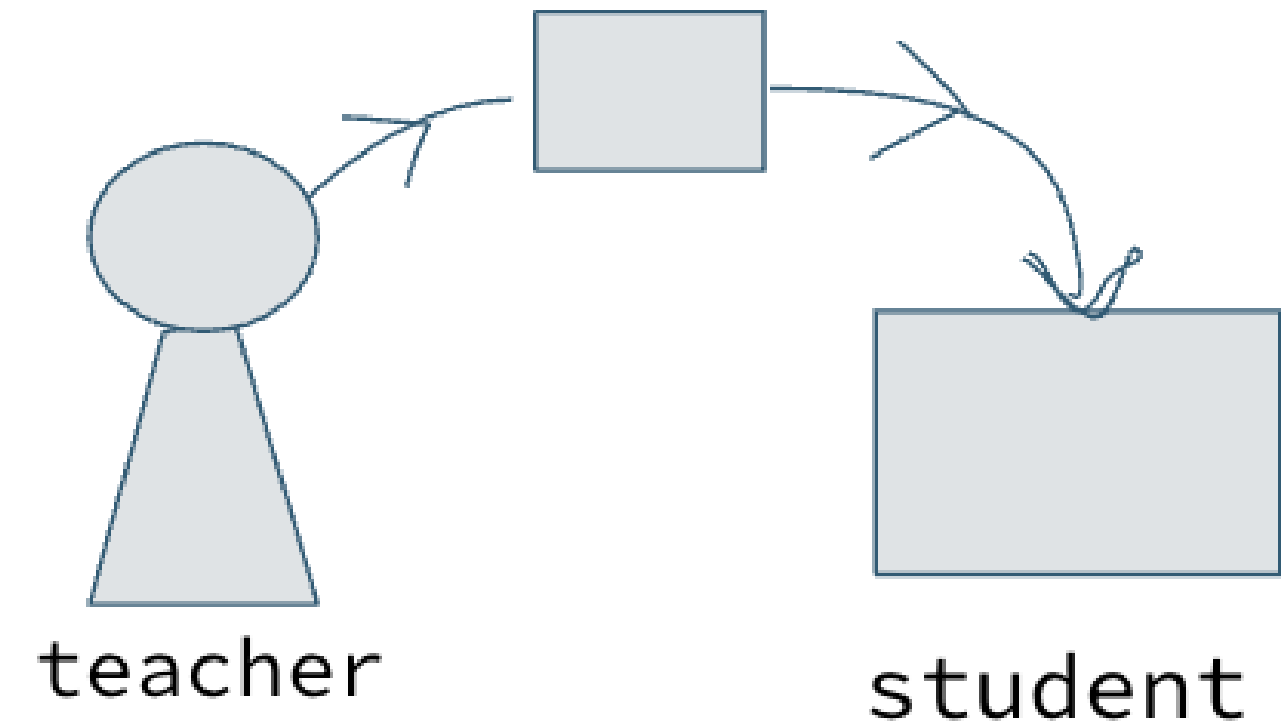
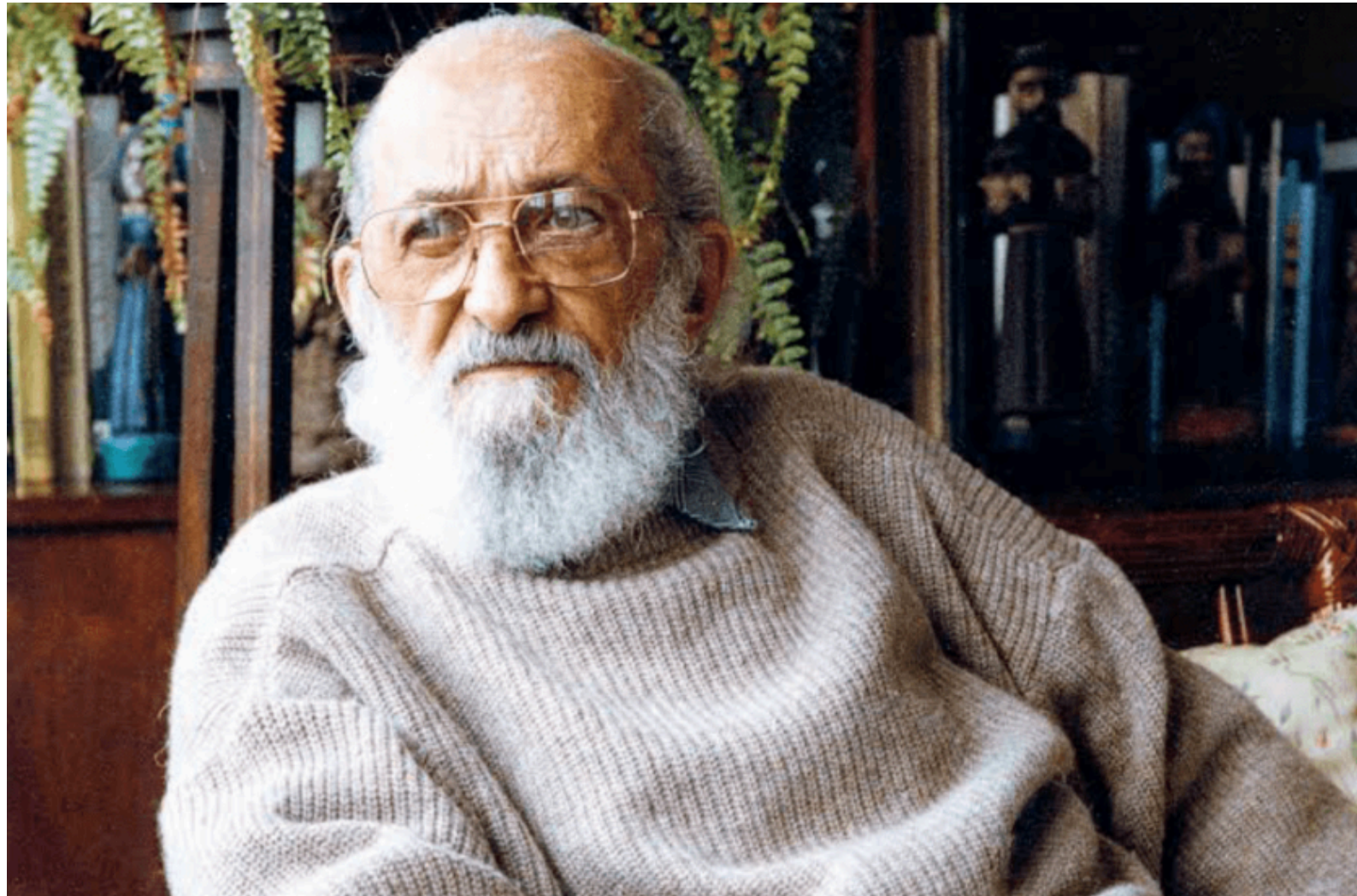
Dewey

“With the advent of democracy and modern industrial conditions, it is impossible to foretell definitely just what civilization will be twenty years from now.

- John Dewey (1897)



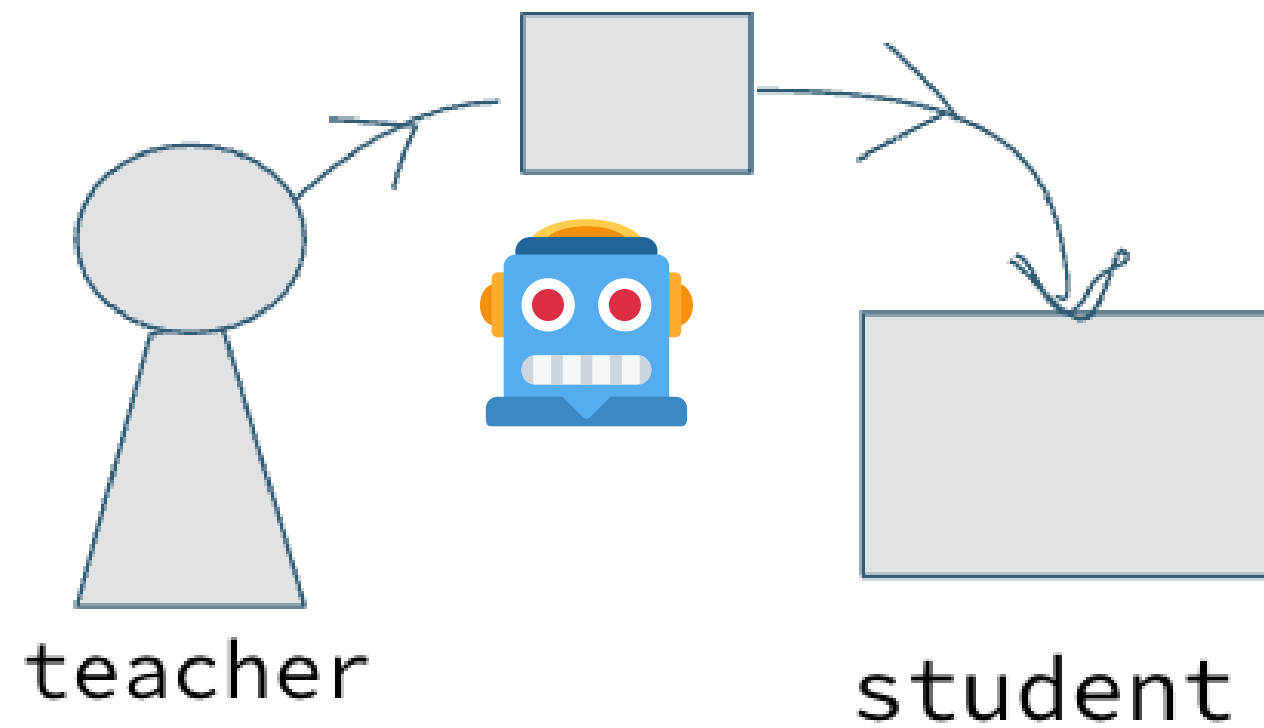
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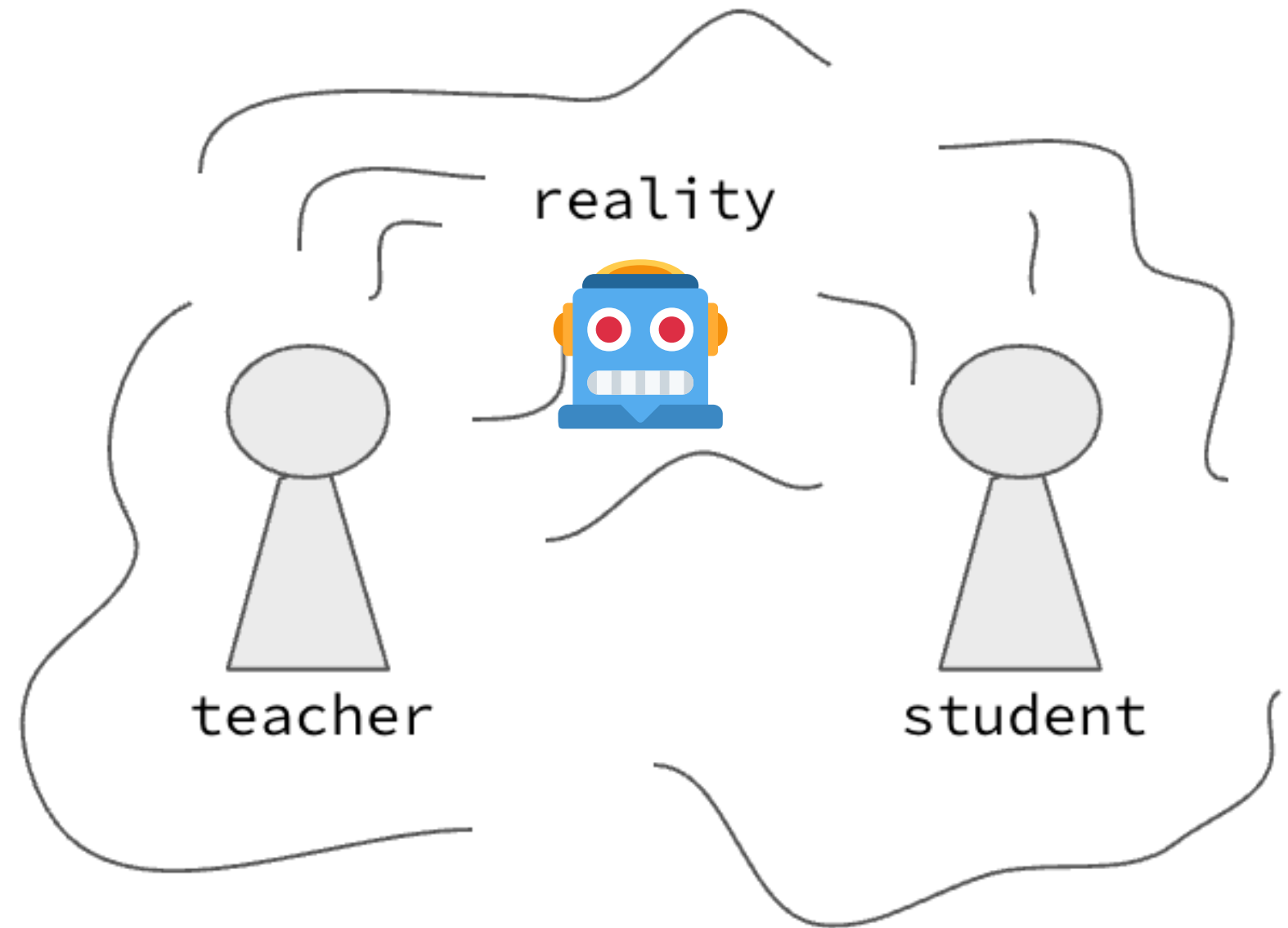
BANKING METHOD

- Teacher narrates or deposits information
- Students turned into 'containers' or 'receptacles'- only task is to memorize, collect, categorize
- Reality becomes 'motionless, static, compartmentalized, predictable'

Banking



Problem-Posing



Fall 2023

Project 1

Students as Evaluators of AI Chatbots

The Persona Pattern





To use this pattern, your prompt should make the following fundamental contextual statements:

- Act as Persona X
- Perform task Y

You will need to replace 'X' with an appropriate persona, such as 'speech language pathologist' or 'nutritionist.' You will then need to specify a task for the persona to perform.

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/generative-ai/prompt-patterns/>

Sample Prompt

 Role	You are an expert French language tutor.
 Goal	Your goal is to help me perfect my French grammar and vocabulary to reach a fluent level.
 Behavior	Engage with me in conversation completely in French. Always speak in French, no other languages.
 References	Use the attached list of topics of conversation. [Sample: list of AI topics.]



Initiative to support CUNY teacher education programs to prepare educators to equitably and meaningfully integrate computing and digital literacies into public school classrooms.

CITE Framework



Philosophy 202
“Major Ideas & Issues in Education”

Teacher	<p>How does the AI Bot do as a teacher? Consider experimenting with any of the activities a teacher might do, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teaching new material - designing lesson plans - designing quizzes or other assignments.
Tutor/Homework Assistant	<p>How does the AI Bot do as a tutor or homework assistant? Consider exploring various ways it might assist, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helping you understand a difficult passage from a reading - designing practice quiz questions - getting started with an outline or brainstorming for a paper - providing feedback.
Student Peer	<p>How does the AI Bot do as a student peer? Consider how it could contribute to class discussions and activities.</p>
Philosopher	<p>How does the AI Bot do as a Philosopher of Education? Consider getting the Bot to act as a philosopher and using its capabilities to go deeper with a philosophical issue or technique, such as the Socratic Method!</p>
Educational Reformer	<p>How does the AI Bot do as an Educational Reformer? Does it have good ideas on how to make education better, at any level?</p>
Motivational Coach	<p>How does the AI Bot do as a personal coach to help you achieve success in college and beyond?</p>

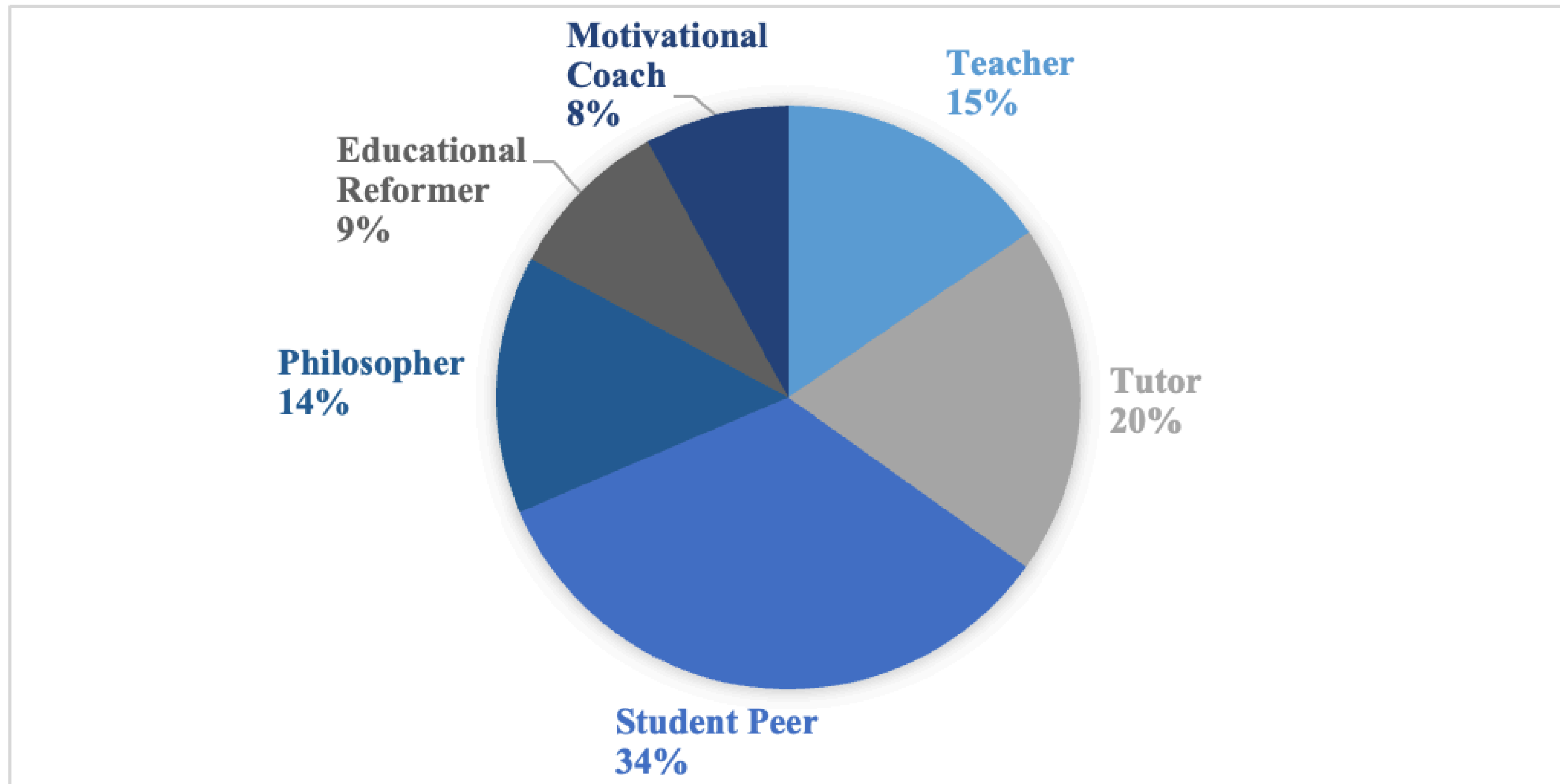


Fig. 1. Percentage of evaluations per role.

Teacher	<p>How does the AI Bot do as a teacher? Consider experimenting with any of the activities a teacher might do, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teaching new material - designing lesson plans - designing quizzes or other assignments.
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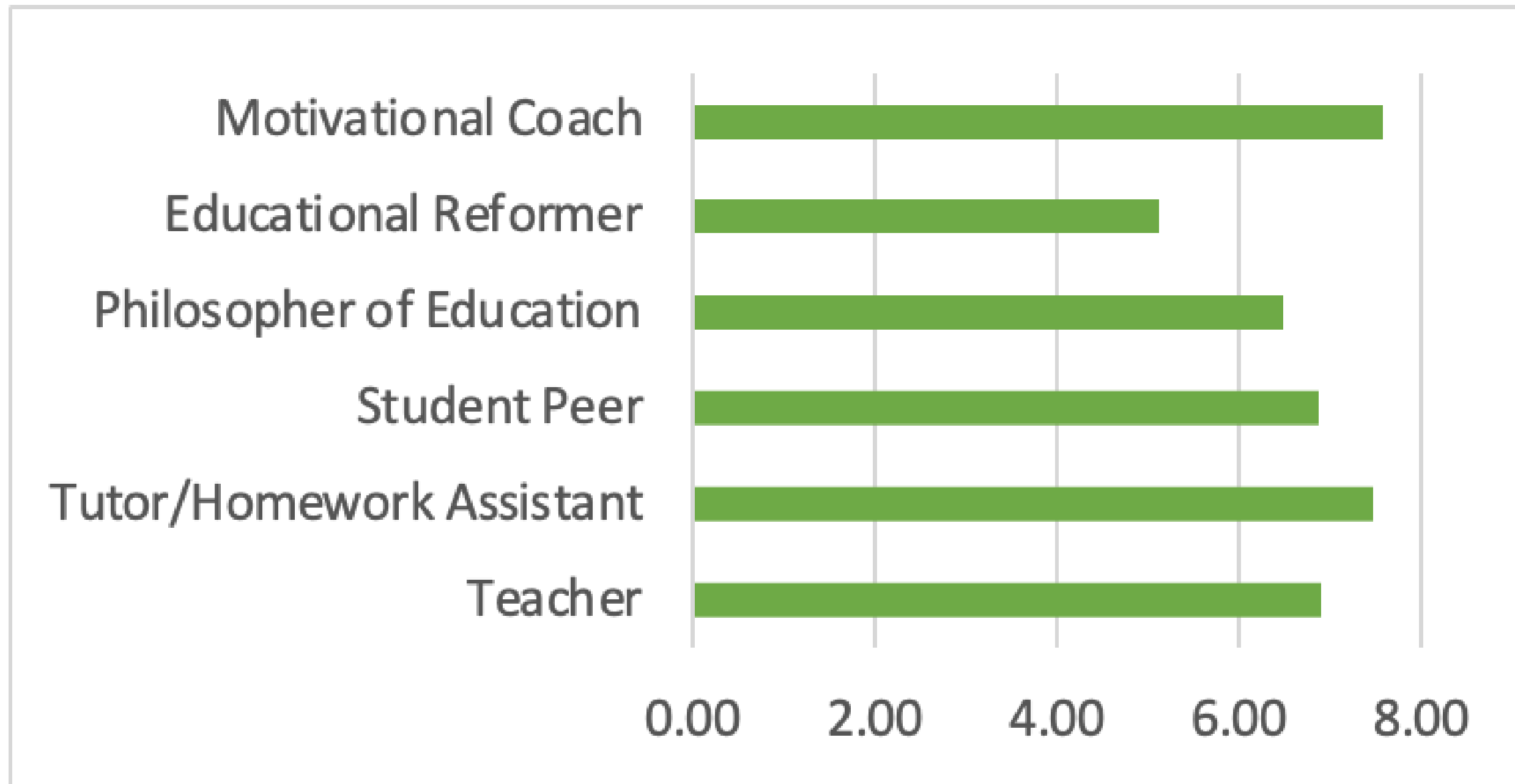


Fig. 2. Average score per role.

Most common **positive themes:**

ability to provide satisfying quantities of information, including ideas, strategies, activities, and lesson plans tailored to students' prompts.

Most common **negative themes:**

inability to provide deeper analysis, offer reliable resources, and tackle controversial and complex issues.

**Spring 2024 -
Fall 2024**

Project 2

Students as Creators of Custom AI Chatbots



Computing-Integrated Teacher Education
at the City University of New York

CITE Framework



Philosophy 202 “Major Ideas & Issues in Education”



Building Bridges of Knowledge (BBK)

25 Colleges. One University.

 The City University of New York /

Building Bridge of Knowledge (BBK) is a CUNY-wide faculty fellowship project, aiming to help students use Gen AI tools ethically, responsibly, and effectively.





Andrej Karpathy ✓

@karpathy



The hottest new programming language is English

9:14 PM · Jan 24, 2023 · **4.7M** Views

 848

 5.4K

 33K

 2.8K



https://x.com/karpathy/status/1617979122625712128?lang=en&utm_source=pocket_saves

Let's say you have a **prompt** that works very well for you or students...

You can “wrap up” or “package” the prompt into a **custom bot**...



... and you don't need to **share** the whole prompt, just the link or QR code!



TutorBot-EdPhil

By community builder 

This is a tutor for students of Philosophy 202 trained to help with the Personal Educational Philosophy paper. When you are done for a session, type "END" to get a summary. (Profile picture generated with DALL-E)

What is
the assignment?

I'm stuck and don't
know how to start

I have some
ideas and need
to brainstorm

I started writing
part of this
and would like...



How to Try Out the Module Bot 🤖 - Watch Video

Visit the ModuleBot trained on this module’s materials. You will see several options when you arrive. Please spend at least 10-15 minutes interacting with it and don’t close the tab until done. When you are done, type “END” to get your summary.

Key Link:
<https://www.playlab.ai/project/cm6v7vu1w0laoixbzrryiyhk9>

What to Submit: The learning check-in’s last question will ask for a copy of your ModuleBot summary.

● end

AI

TutorBot Session Summary for C

Options Explored

- Written Quiz on the reading by bell hooks
- Multiple-Choice Quiz on the reading by bell hooks
- Coaching session for motivation to do the reading

Quiz Performance

- Answered 1 written question: Correct on the first try.
- Attempted 1 multiple-choice question: Incorrect on the first attempt, did not retry.

Main Topics Covered

- **Engaged Pedagogy:** Focused on the holistic approach to education, emphasizing the well-being of both students and teachers.
- **Student Participation:** Explored the role of active engagement in learning.

Study Tips

- Review the sections on pages 6 and 7 of "Engaged Pedagogy" to better understand the distinct elements of engaged pedagogy.
- Consider reflecting on how bell hooks' emphasis on the well-being of teachers and students can apply to real-world educational settings.

Feel free to return anytime for more practice or discussion!

📄

🚩

Student-Made Bots: An Educator's Toolkit



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Building Bridges of Knowledge - all OERs!

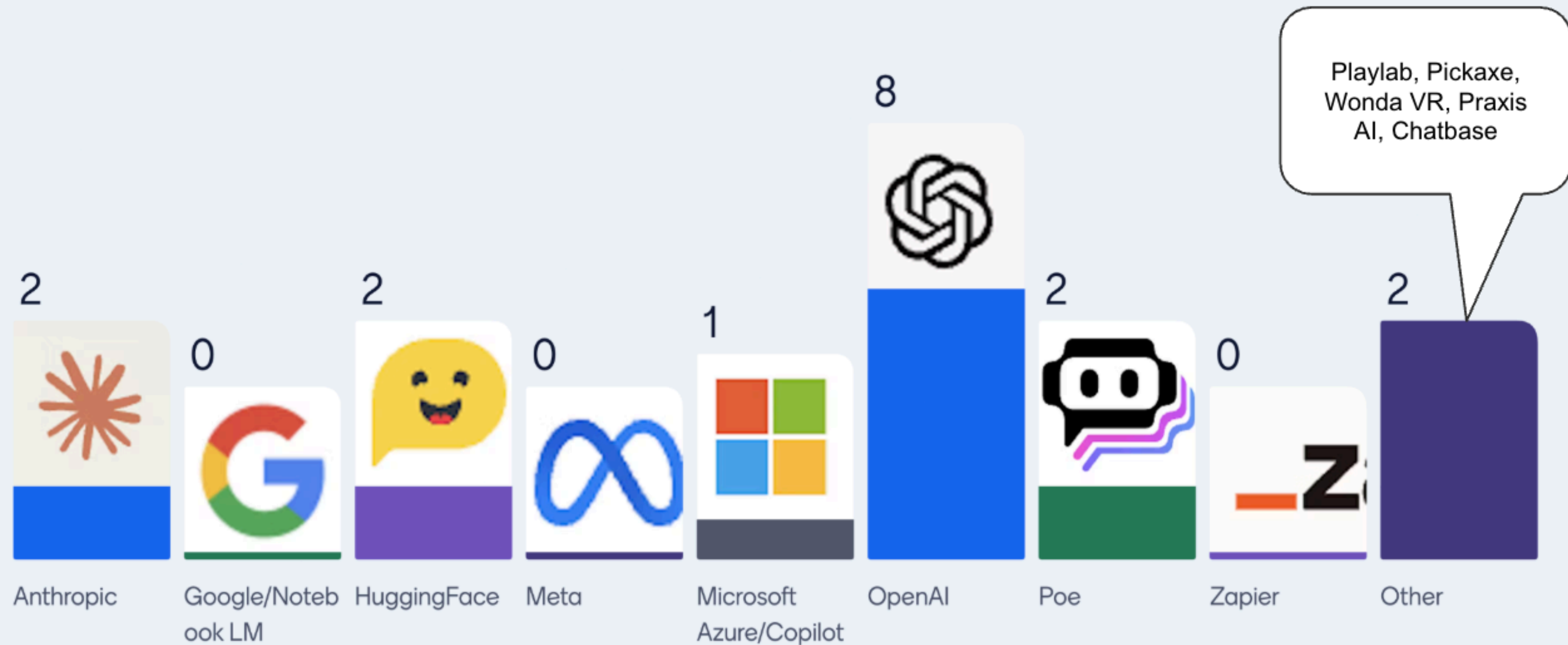
Value of Student Bot-Building

- 🧠 Students develop cognitive skills that are also beneficial for interacting with generative AI platforms.
- 👛 Students gain in-demand generative AI career skills.
- 💪 Students are empowered to build their own bots on open-source, free platforms, rather than just relying on previously trained bots and/or commercial platforms.
- ⚡ Students reflect on and formulate their own judgments about the use of generative AI in education.

Recommended Stages

Weeks 1-9	 Exploration!	<p>Teach the basics of AI literacy and what custom bots are.</p> <p>Provide links to sample educational bots (built by you or other educators) and ask students to try them out.</p>
Weeks 10-11	 Ideation	<p>Guide students to identify an educational problem or need that they would like to address via a custom bot.</p>
Weeks 12-14	 Building, Sharing, and Evaluating	<p>Guide students to build their bots, share with each other, and provide peer evaluations.</p>

Which platform/API have you used the most for custom bot/GPT creation?



Informal survey of educators attending an AI in Education Custom Bots/GPTs monthly gathering in October 2024.

Selected Free Platforms



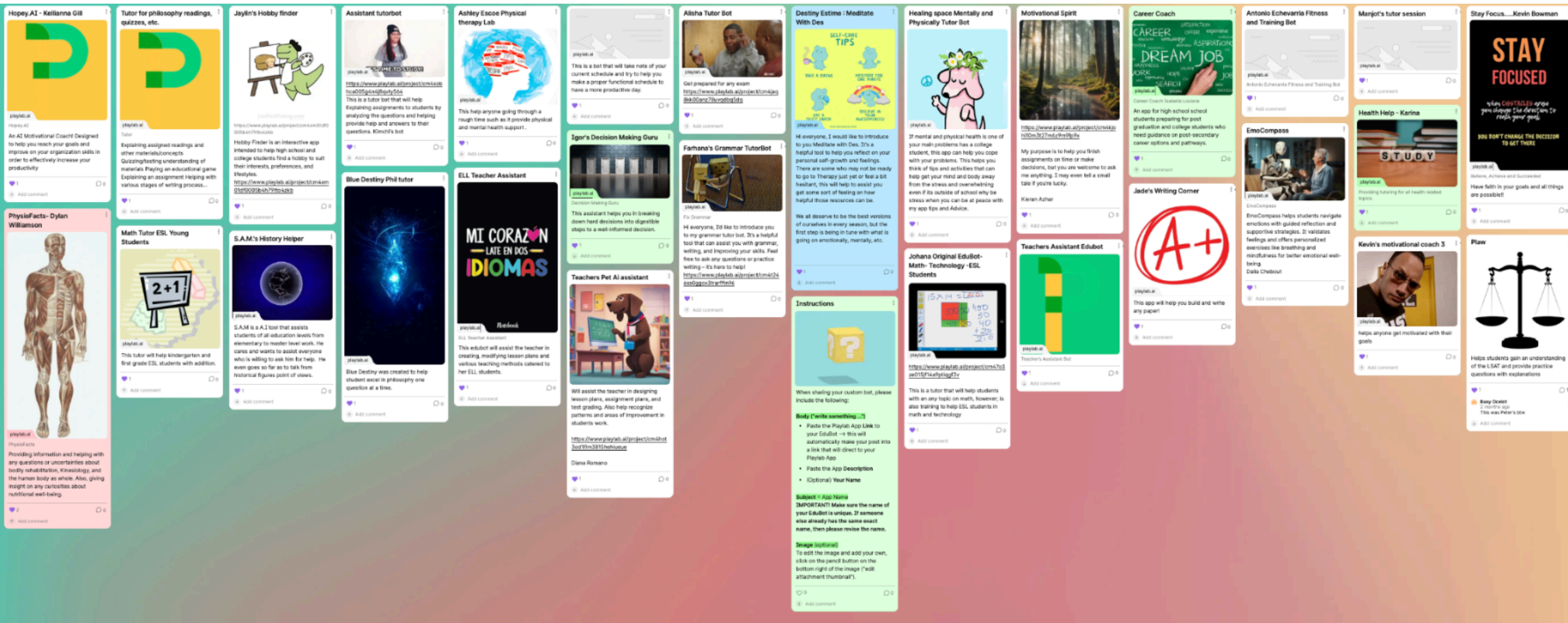
HuggingChat



Poe



Playlab



Philosophy 202, Bots Created by Students

Tutor
Teacher's Assistant
Motivational Coach
Philosopher
Educational Reformer

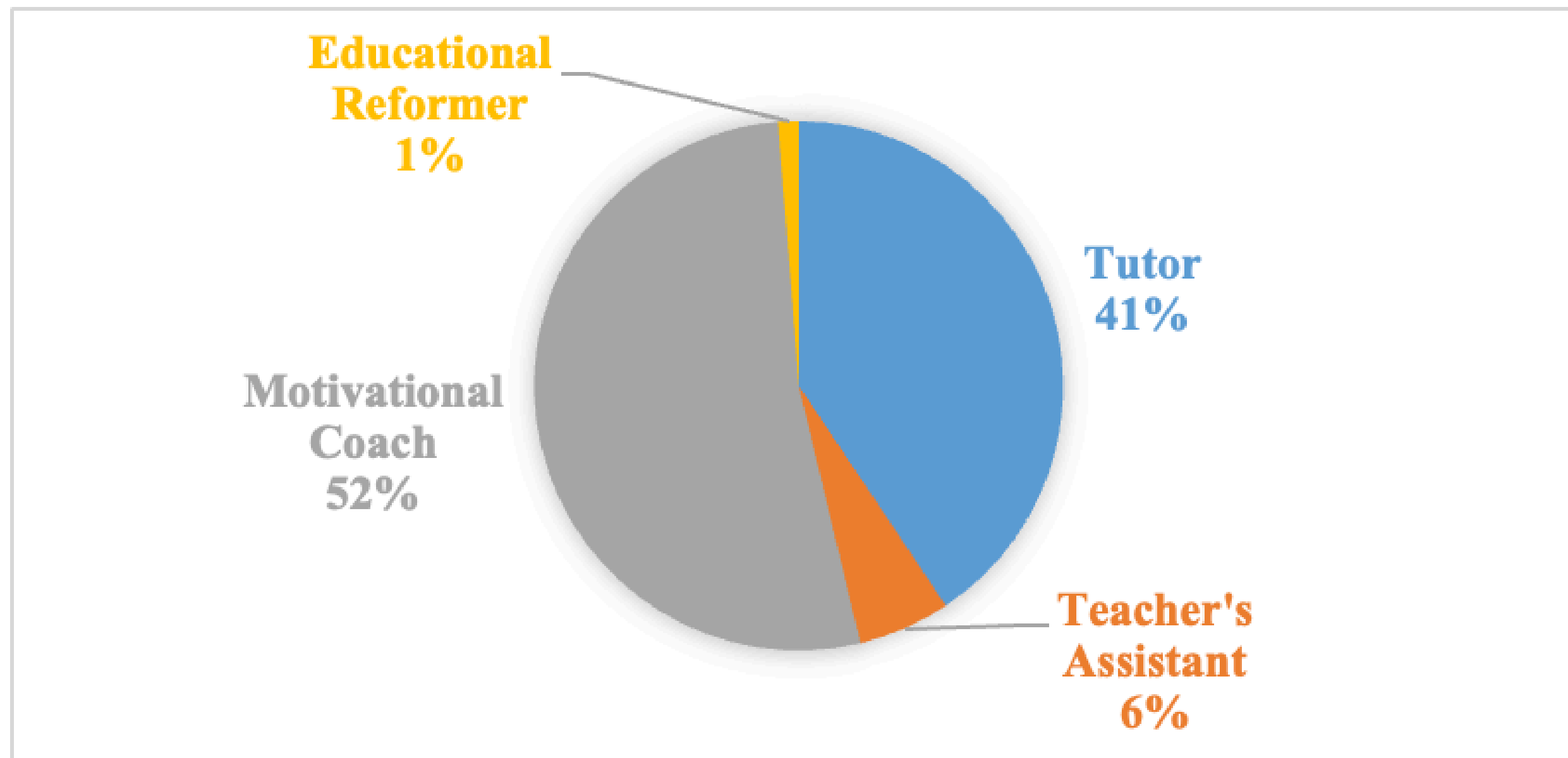


Fig. 3. Percentage evaluations per role.

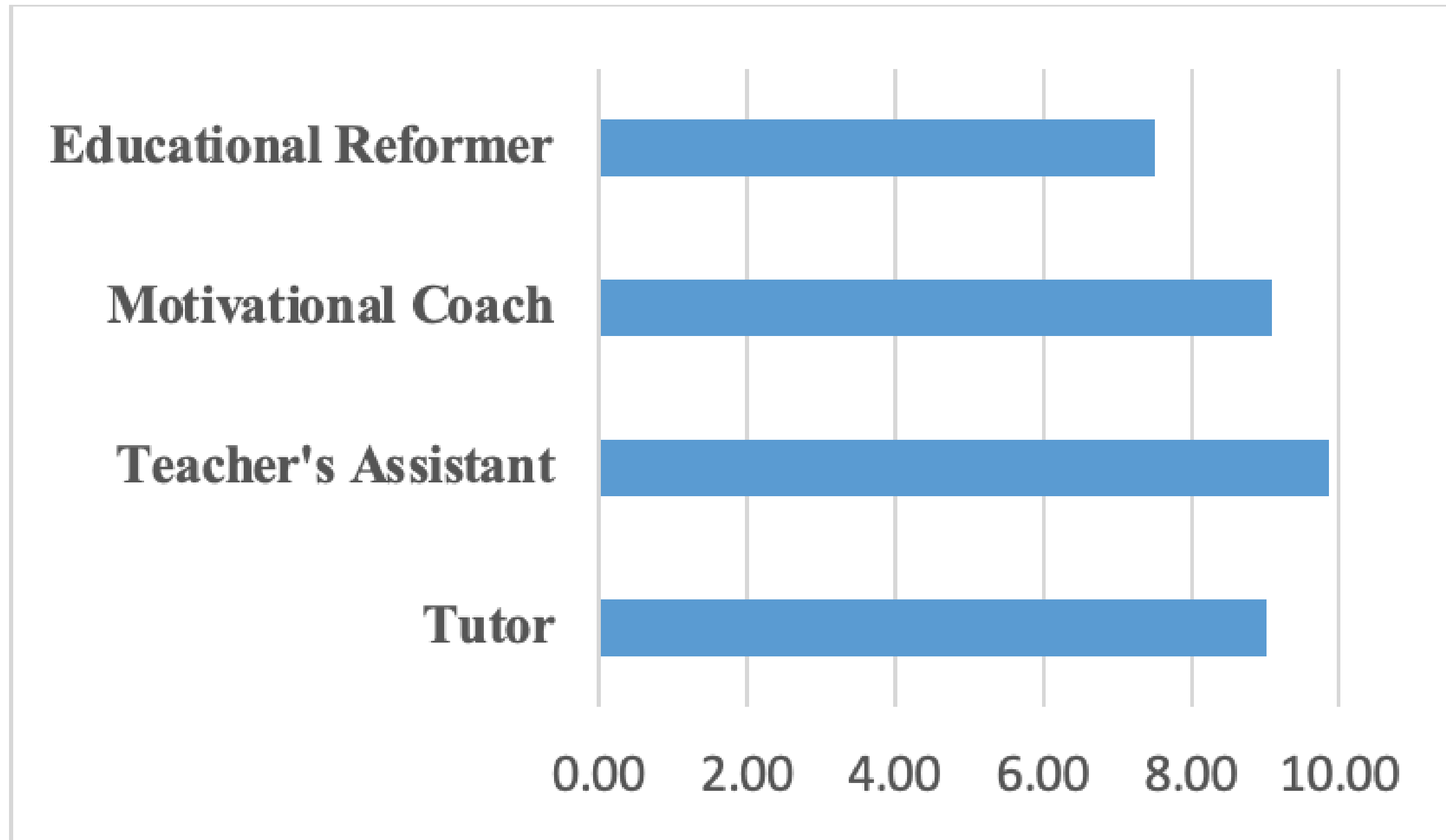


Fig. 4. Average score per role.

edushare.ing/bots

“Navigating AI: One Year of Custom Bots, Apps & Classroom Breakthroughs”

AI in Education - Custom Bots/GPTs
One-Year Showcase Anniversary 🎉



Casandra Silva Sibilin
Host and Lecturer
City University of New York



John Swope
Education Technologist



Tina Austin
AI and Ethics Integration Specialist
Lecturer, UCLA



14 Jul 2025
1:00-2:15pm ET



Showcase Topics:

- DIY AI Simulations for Educators
- Real-World Experiments with Bots & Microapps
- Bots for STEM, bioinformatics, humanities, and social sciences



Zoom Registration: shorturl.at/RoR9f

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<https://linktr.ee/csilvasibilin>

THANK YOU!



SLIDES: shorturl.at/vPmmd