Student Strategies for Using AI Thoughtfully and Effectively

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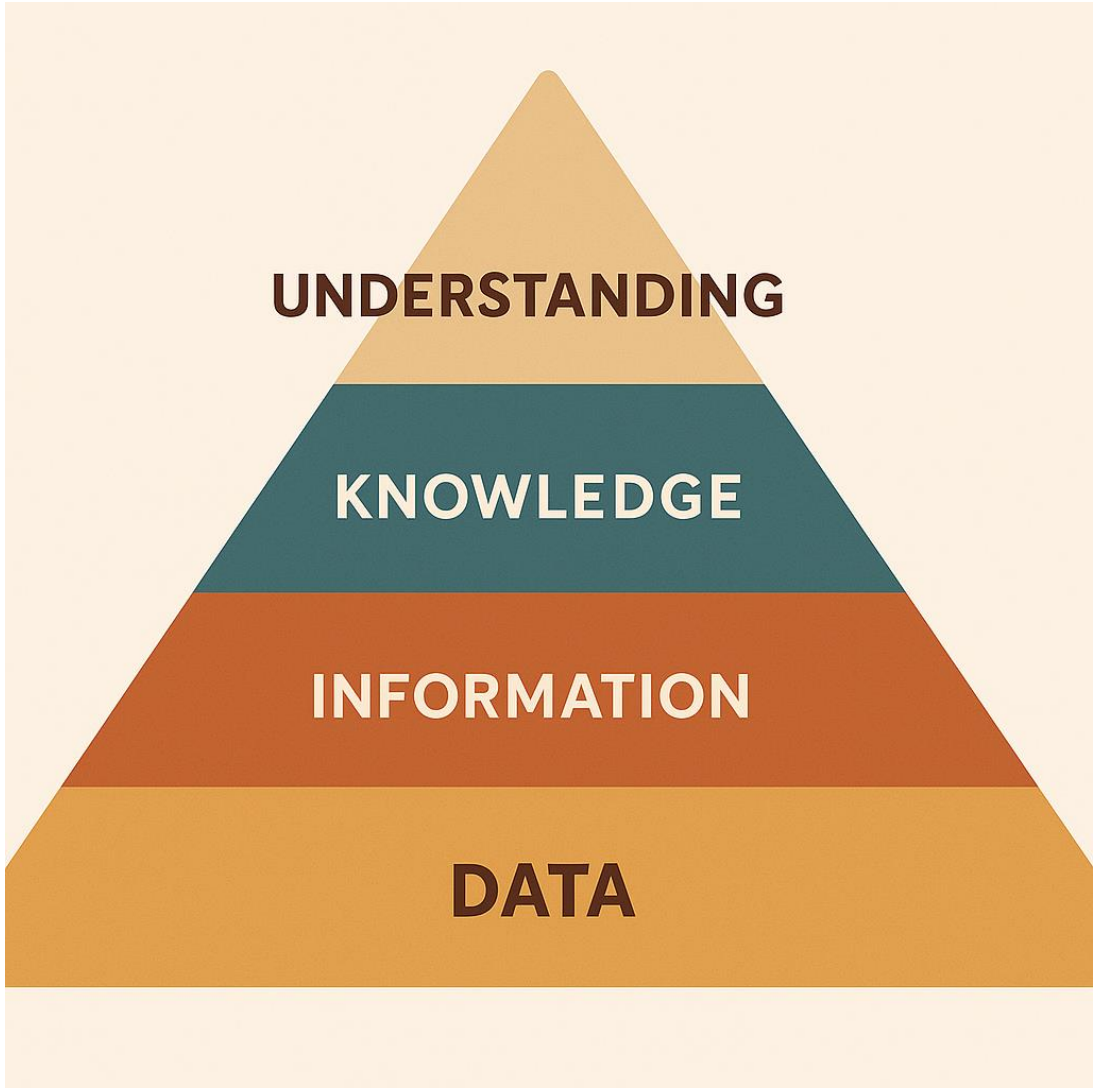
Carolyn and Her Agenda

- Director of Instructional Resources, Wichita State University
- Education instructor in the Intervention services and Leadership in Education department
- Speaker on accessibility, teaching & learning, and teaching with technology

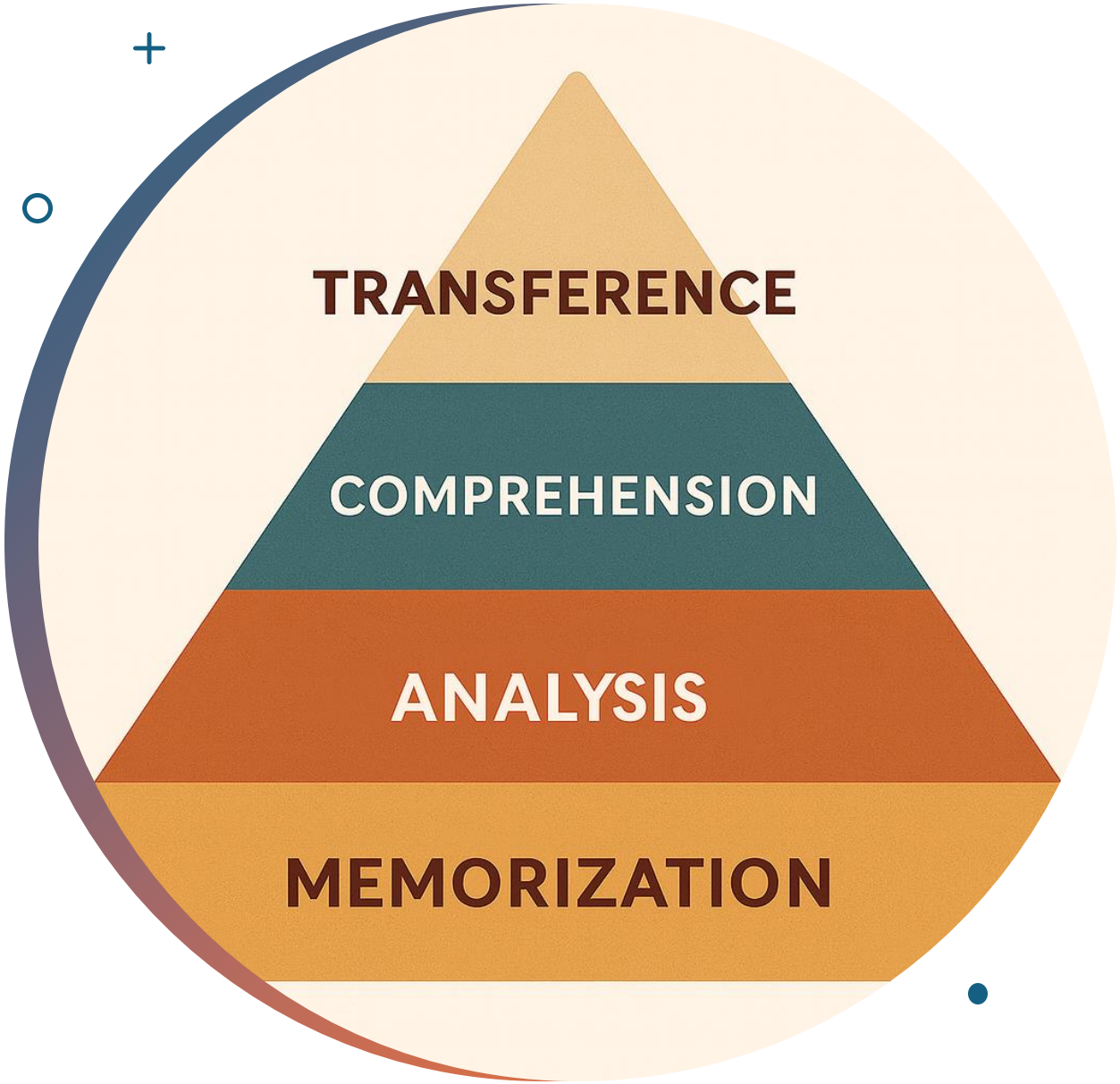
What is "Learning"? (for today's purposes):

The acquisition of enduring, flexible, and transferable knowledge, skills, and understanding



Authentic Learning Reaches Beyond Facts

- **Data**: Raw facts without context
- **Information**: Organized data that conveys meaning
- **Knowledge**: Connected information built through experience and reasoning
- **Understanding**: The ability to explain, apply judgment, and gain insight



Contextual Support for Learning

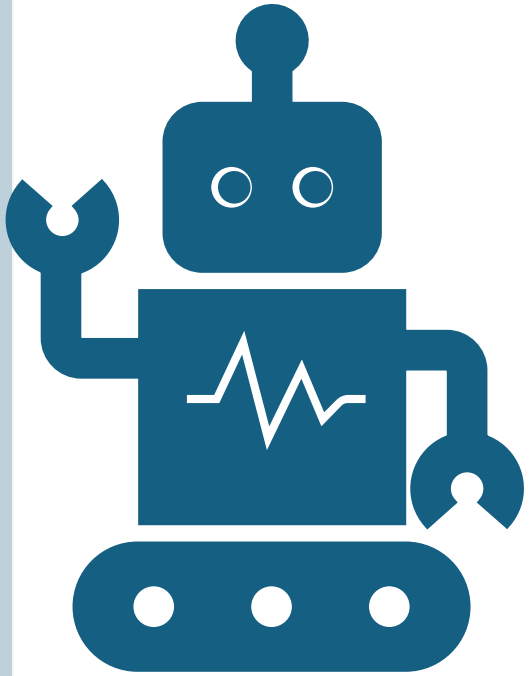
- Different types of learning align with different types of assignments and activities
- Data > **Memorization**
- Information > **Comprehension**
- Knowledge > **Analysis**
- Understanding > **Creation, Meaning, Judgment, “Transference”**

Learning Isn’t Easy

- The process of learning involves many unpleasant components
  - Struggle, hard effort
  - Short-term failure
  - Reassessment
- Working through the hard parts pays off
  - Builds resilience
  - Supports moving “up the pyramid”

What is "Teaching"? (for today's purposes):

The cultivation of learning

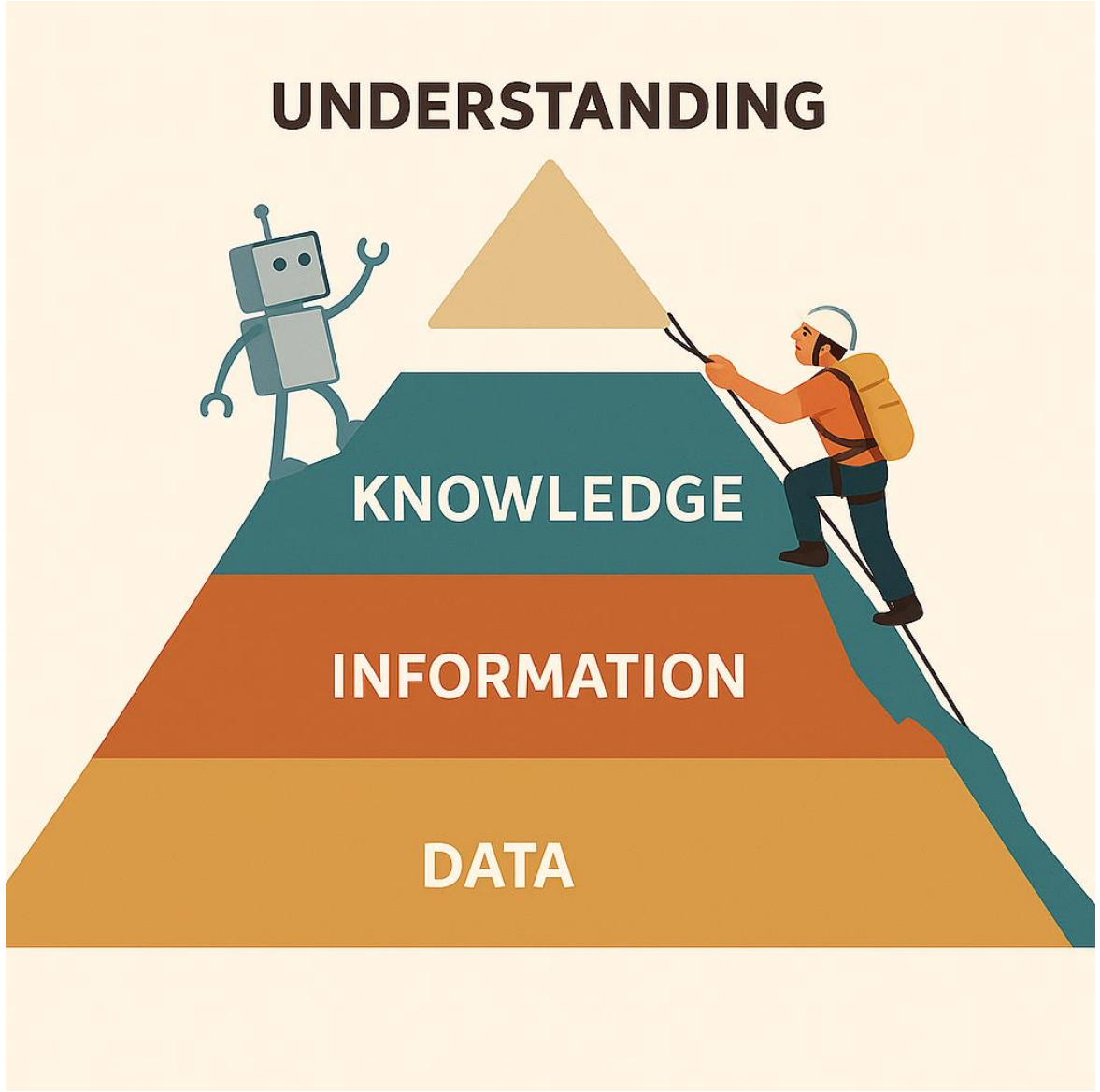


Is it Worth the Effort?

Why go through all this is AI can learn so much better than humans can?

This is Where Organic Intelligence SHINES

- Educating your human mind matters
- You are uniquely capable of reaching the top of the pyramid
- Artificial intelligence can adequately simulate “knowledge” but it cannot simulate or attain understanding
- All AI “creations” are derivative. Only OI (organic intelligence) has the ability to create something truly new



Example of Human Creation

- This is a picture of one of the “Starry Night” images by Van Gogh (image from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NY)
- It represents a merging of observation and imagination and captures feeling through the distortion of something concrete

Example of Derivative Creation

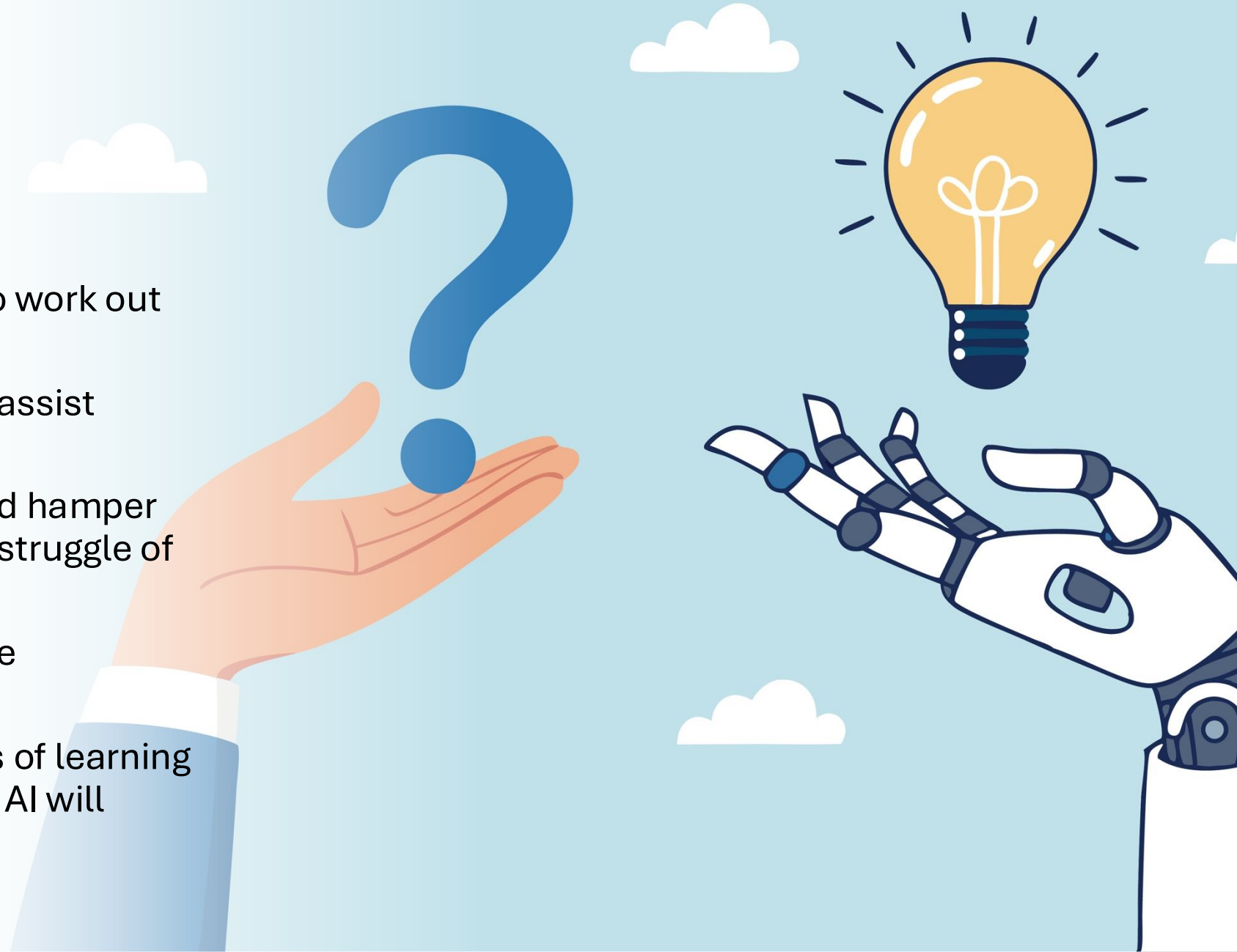
- I asked ChatGPT 5.0 to ”look at” a picture of your administration building on campus and render it “in the style of Van Gogh’s Starry Night”
- This is fundamentally derivative and lacks the inherent creativity of the original
- You are learning to be original, not derivative. That’s what sets your brain apart from, and above, AI

Activity #1: What Does Learning Feel Like?

- At your table, take a moment to look over “Student Activity 1” on your own for a few minutes
- Jot a few notes down, to help anchor your thoughts
- Discuss at the table
- As you come up with words to describe how learning feels, add them to the word cloud
- We will ”popcorn” a few responses as a whole group at the end

Is AI EVER Supportive of Learning?

- This is a question you will need to work out for yourself
- It can be very helpful as a tool to assist learning
- It can also be very destructive and hamper learning, largely by replacing the struggle of learning with “quick production”
- The trick is learning how to tell the difference
- Remember: focus on the process of learning not the “product.” The product of AI will always be derivative



Activity #2: Is AI Helpful Here?

- Take a moment to look over the scenarios on “Student Activity 2”
- Decide as a table which to begin with, and how you will move through them (you won’t get to all of them)
- Talk through the situation, referring to the “Decision Tree” (paper or digital version)
- We will take a look at a few as full group at the end

THANK YOU!