Slow Down: Generative AI, Faculty Reactions, and the Role of Critical Thinking in Writing Instruction

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Generative artificial intelligence (GAI) is a rapidly developing technology that raises concerns among faculty in higher education, especially as it pertains to writing, communication, creative, and critical thinking skills. However, it also presents new ways of teaching and learning that may augment, rather than replace, those skills. In this report from the field, we present observations gathered from our experiences organizing and participating in a month-long faculty learning community on GAI. We discuss these observations in light of the research and broader conversations on GAI and education, arguing that critical thinking is crucial to slowing down thinking processes and decreasing an overreliance on AI.