

## FRICION BY DESIGN

When you write, you're not just putting words on a page—you're sharing your ideas with others. Sometimes, this can feel uncomfortable. When someone asks questions about your writing or points out something that's missing, it might feel like criticism. You might even feel defensive or unsure about sharing your work.

But this challenge is actually an important part of becoming a stronger writer. When others respond to your ideas, it creates something called **productive (or essential) friction**—that feeling of struggle when your thinking is being pushed and questioned. Even though it can feel uncomfortable, this kind of friction helps you grow. It pushes you to think more deeply; it forces you to explain your ideas more clearly and strengthens your writing. This process—called *social sense-making*—is how writers improve over time. This is why we work as a **community of writers**. In a writing community, you don't have to figure everything out on your own.

Community of Writers	Community of Writers with AI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● I share my writing and ideas with others, even when it feels uncomfortable.</li><li>● I understand that feeling unsure or defensive is a normal part of the writing process.</li><li>● I use questions and feedback from others to help me think more deeply.</li><li>● I focus on improving my ideas, not taking feedback personally.</li><li>● I ask questions like, "Can you help me understand this?" instead of judging others' writing.</li><li>● I give feedback that helps others grow, not shut them down.</li><li>● I share drafts and works-in-progress to get better, not just to be finished.</li><li>● I learn by hearing different perspectives from my classmates.</li><li>● I reflect on feedback and revise my thinking and writing.</li><li>● I see revision as a normal and important part of becoming a stronger writer.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● I use AI as a tool to help me improve my writing.</li><li>● I ask AI to point out unclear ideas or gaps in my thinking.</li><li>● I use AI to suggest ways I can strengthen my writing.</li><li>● I feel more comfortable practicing with AI because it's not judging me.</li><li>● I work with classmates to explore ideas using AI before sharing with others.</li><li>● I use AI to help me think about what questions a reader may ask.</li><li>● I experiment with different ways to explain my ideas using AI.</li><li>● I use AI feedback to build my confidence before sharing my work.</li><li>● I practice responding to feedback (from AI and people) to improve my writing.</li><li>● I use AI to become a stronger thinker and a more independent writer.</li></ul>

Sources:

Copilot. (n.d.). [Used to rewrite original article in student-friendly language.] <https://copilot.microsoft.com/>  
WestEd. 2025. "Friction by design." *Social Sense-Making. Friction by Design: A Framework for Centering Learning in the Age of AI – WestEd*

## Justification Table

Scenarios	Ethical or Unethical	Evidence
<p><b>Scenario 1: Group Work Shortcut</b></p> <p>One group member uses AI to answer all the research questions for a social studies group project and refuses to explain how they got the answers or involve the other team members.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Ethical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unethical</p>	
<p><b>Scenario 2: Writing Coach</b></p> <p>A student writes a rough draft of their personal narrative and uses AI to revise it for better grammar, vocabulary, and sentence flow. The final version is significantly more polished than their usual writing, but they reviewed all the changes and agreed with them. They do not tell the teacher they used AI.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Ethical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unethical</p>	
<p><b>Scenario 3: Debate Coach</b></p> <p>A student is preparing for a social studies debate. They use AI to generate arguments and counterarguments on both sides of the topic to help them practice. During the debate, they use some of the phrasing and examples from the AI-generated content.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Ethical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unethical</p>	