ASCILITE 2026

The Future is Connection:

Collaboration, Creativity and Compassion in a Digital Society

From prompt to practice: A visual framework for AI-supported creative learning in animation education

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Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is changing how students imagine, produce, revise and communicate creative work. In animation education, AI tools can support rapid ideation, visual experimentation and alternative design pathways, but they also raise questions about how students continue to develop foundational skills, creative judgement, peer critique and reflective practice. This poster presents a classroom-informed visual framework for integrating AI into practice-based creative learning without reducing learning to prompt generation or final outputs.

The framework was developed through practice-led curriculum redesign in an undergraduate animation course. It is informed by reflective practice, foundational animation principles, authentic learning, engagement theory and recent debates about AI in higher education (Bearman et al., 2023; Herrington, 2006; Kearsley & Shneiderman, 1998; Schön, 1983; Thomas & Johnston, 1981). Rather than positioning AI as a replacement for craft, critique or student decision-making, the framework maps AI-supported creative learning as an iterative studio process: observe, experiment, generate, critique, reflect, refine and share. This cycle visualises how AI can be embedded within classroom activities while keeping human judgement, feedback, revision and ethical decision-making central to learning.

The poster focuses on how this framework can support creative practice in the classroom. It highlights how students may use AI to explore visual possibilities, test ideas, compare alternatives and reflect on their decisions, while still being assessed on process, reasoning, feedback use, authorship and responsible tool engagement. The visual model is organised around four pedagogical commitments: reflection; iteration; collaboration and critique; and ethical decision-making.

By foregrounding a practical classroom case and a visual teaching framework, this poster contributes to ASCILITE 2026's themes of connection, collaboration, creativity and compassion in a digital society. Although grounded in animation education, the model offers transferable strategies for educators designing AI-supported learning in creative, project-based and practice-based courses.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, animation education, creative practice, technology-enhanced learning, visual framework, assessment design, reflective practice

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