

What Comes After Yes?

A Companion to Norman Eng (Faculty Focus, May 18, 2026): Pair the decision framework with the SeedStacking integration model.

Eng's four questions tell you WHEN AI belongs in a lesson. SeedStacking's four phases tell you HOW to structure the YES answers so they compound into skill instead of decaying into surrender. Use this worksheet to map any AI-touched lesson or assignment through both layers in about ten minutes.

Eng's Condition + Question	SeedStacking Phase	Your Lesson — Plan This Phase
<p>CONDITION 1</p> <p>Will this AI tool help students use, recall, and demonstrate understanding of core disciplinary content?</p> <p>Higher-order thinking sits on top of domain knowledge.</p>	<p>PHASE 1</p> <p>SEED</p> <p>AI in smallest role. 5-min daily interactions. AI prompts the student to think MORE about one concept. AI never does the thinking.</p>	<p>What specific concept will the AI surface for retrieval practice?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>How will you verify the student did the thinking (not the AI)?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>CONDITION 2</p> <p>Will this AI tool require students to apply their learning to a new context?</p> <p>Transfer is the gold standard of understanding.</p>	<p>PHASE 2</p> <p>SPROUT</p> <p>Students attempt application BEFORE consulting AI. AI check happens AFTER the wrestle. Productive struggle is preserved.</p>	<p>What is the "wrestle" step the student does without AI first?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>What does the AI comparison reveal that the wrestle alone could not?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>CONDITION 3</p> <p>Will this AI tool support — not replace — independent, evidence-based reasoning?</p> <p>Eng's test: can the student articulate, in their own words, why they made the decisions they made?</p>	<p>PHASE 3</p> <p>GROW</p> <p>AI as critique partner, not producer. Student drafts, reasons, defends. THEN asks AI to push back. Judgment stays with the student.</p>	<p>What decision must the student make and defend in writing?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>How will the student respond to AI's pushback (accept, refute, refine)?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>CONDITION 4</p> <p>Will this AI integration preserve meaningful human interaction?</p> <p>Peer feedback, instructor dialogue, collaborative problem-solving.</p>	<p>PHASE 4</p> <p>HARVEST</p> <p>Student TEACHES. Produces a shareable artifact and presents to peers. AI is one tool among many, never the source of the work.</p>	<p>What shareable artifact will the student produce and present?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Who is the human audience (peers, instructor, community)?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>

THE HONEST TEST

If you cannot explain how AI use at each phase BUILDS to the next phase, you are not integrating AI. You are deploying it. Deployment without integration is the exact pattern that produces cognitive surrender. The burden of proof belongs to the technology.