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TITLE
Objects of Curiosity: Bringing a research mindset into the classroom

Speaker: Joseph Dias

Presentation Type: Workshop

Abstract

Learning to ask questions not only helps students interact more naturally and authentically, but it can open the door for more advanced critical thinking. In the classroom, students may not receive appropriate models for formulating questions they need in order to develop higher order thinking skills. This workshop will present scenarios for how interaction and critical thinking skills can be enhanced through well-crafted questions in the contexts of ice breakers used in virtual exchanges; by interrogating 'fishy' web sources that straddle the line between the barely plausible and completely outlandish; and via the formulation of research hypotheses arising from the examination of mysterious objects (gathered by the presenter) that cannot be easily classified as manmade or natural. How instruction in prompt engineering for AI chatbots can assist students in coming up with a wider array of questions will also be explored. After experiencing this workshop, participants will come to an even greater appreciation of the Confucian proverb that states, "The man who asks a question is a fool for a minute; the man who does not ask is a fool for life."

Biography

Joseph Dias, with degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Teachers College Columbia University, currently coordinates the Integrated English Program for the English Department of Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. Originally from Silicon Valley, he is passionate about guerrilla gardening, photography, and marine videography.