Activity: Create Your Own AI Guide!

In this activity, you will learn about coding with AI, the pitfalls to avoid as a student (and future computer scientist), and develop your own AI usage and prompting guide!

Open up the following:

1. The activity instructions in a browser: https://w3.cs.jmu.edu/cs159/f25/acts/act15/
2. Your favorite AI (we recommend GitHub Copilot for this activity! You can use others as well.)

Part 1: Vibe Coding (10 min)

Your first task is to "solve" the `wordMultiple` problem on CodingBat (link in the instructions above).

Without writing a single line of code yourself, have AI solve the problem. **Did it work first try?** (Yes / No)

Briefly describe how you used AI to get a solution (what prompts, any discussion, etc.):

How confident are you that you could solve the problem again without AI or solve a more difficult version?

Briefly explain the goal of the problem and how the solution works.

Part 2: Learning *with* AI (15 min)

Now, try to solve the `wordMultiplePositions` problem, without asking AI to write any code.

You may still use it for hints and reference. Are you able to solve it on your own?

Describe any use of AI below:

After you finish, ask AI to review your code. Summarize below:

Part 3: AI Guide

Reflect on your experiences with AI in this activity and this course and answer the following questions:

Has AI been helpful to you in this course? How/why?

Has AI been unhelpful to you in this course? How/why?

Has AI ever given an incorrect or confusing response? What do you think caused/would cause this?

What are some useful tips to help AI generate a useful response? *(Think back to our labs!)*

Why do you think we have you solve problems even though AI can solve them too?

What do you think the role of AI should be in your education? In your career? In the global context?

How will you use AI responsibly in your coursework and future projects? Write two guiding principles for yourself.

Now, think about 5-6 useful things you can ask AI to do, and write example prompts:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.