



The Five Steps of *Human-Centered* AI Design

After someone uses this AI, what is different about how they understand themselves, express their ideas, or act in the world?

Educational AI is too often judged by speed and output. Human-centered design asks a deeper question — not what the AI produces, but what **grows in the person** who uses it. These five steps help you design AI apps and agents that strengthen reflection, creation, and judgment, keeping the human at the center.

THE METHOD

1

Clarify the learner, context & starting point

Know who the user is, where the learning happens, and the kind of growth you are designing for — and the need or curiosity that first brings them in.

ATTRACTION

2

Define the core human outcome

In one sentence, name what will grow in the user — what they will understand more clearly, be able to express or create, and be ready to act on.

THE
ANCHOR

3

Map the app across the four AI roles

Decide where AI drives productivity, tutoring, and personalization — and where you intentionally design for human-centered learning, keeping judgment with the human.

PRODUCTIVITY · TUTORING · PERSONALIZATION · HUMAN-
CENTERED

4

Design the reflection–creation–application arc

Build in moments to reflect, create, and apply — with the AI as a mirror, then a collaborator, then a thinking partner, never the author.

MIRROR · COLLABORATOR · THINKING
PARTNER

5

Design for growth over time

Create continuity across sessions so the experience deepens — and the user grows from reaction to reflection to real-world action — rather than resetting each time.

PERSISTENCE

