

Permission, Perception, and Practice:

Investigating Factor Dissidence in Student AI Engagement

Ean J. Richards • Garrett T. Hancock • Candis Scallan • Michael Maurer



Researcher
Asking the important questions



AGRICHAT
Synthesizing the Students Responses

What did students experience with AI in high school?

We asked **84 undergraduate students** to reflect on their experience with artificial intelligence in high school



Were they allowed to use AI?

Not really.
75.31%
said AI was sometimes or never allowed



Were they taught how to use AI?

Mostly, no.
62.20%
Somewhat or strongly disagreed that they were taught how to use AI



So they didn't use it?

Well... That's where it gets interesting
31.71% reported using AI somewhat to very often
35.37% agreed they were likely to use AI when completing an assignment

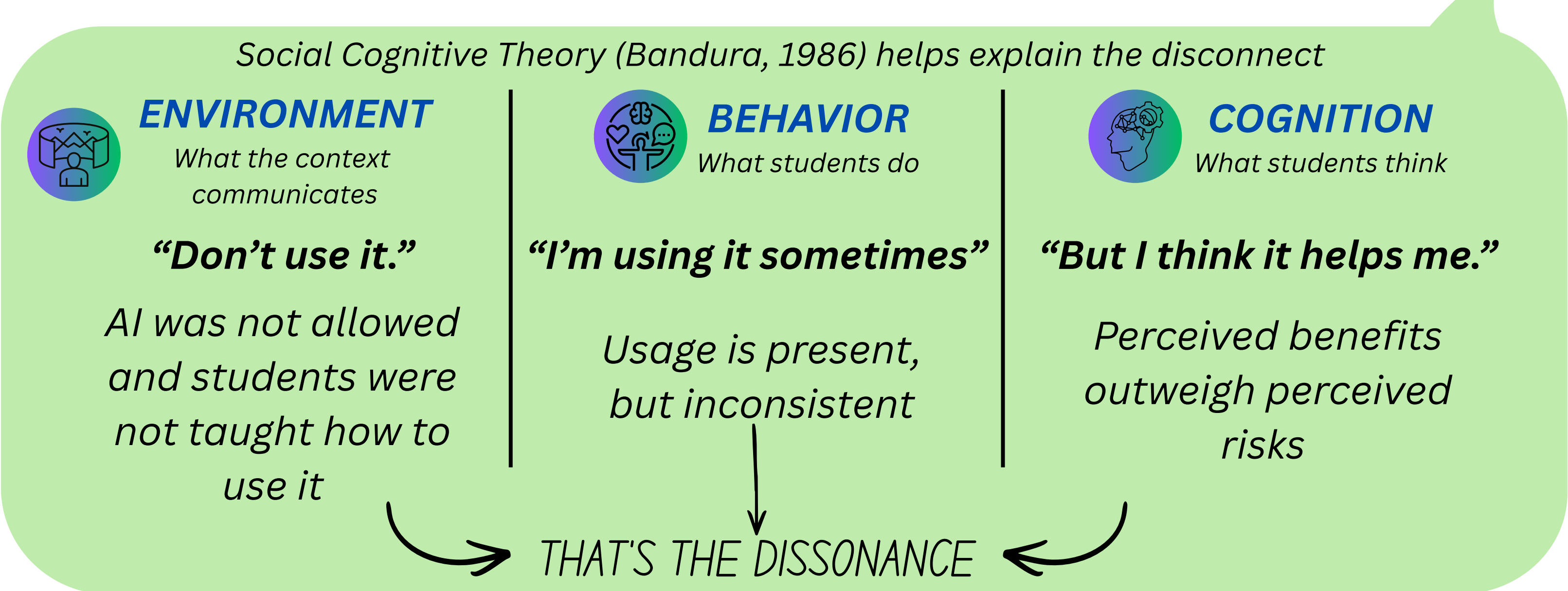


Why use something they weren't taught or encouraged to use?

Because they perceived a benefit
53.09%
agreed that using AI improved their grades



What does Social Cognitive Theory have to do with this?



So what's the takeaway for educators?

Students may be learning to use AI whether or not we're teaching them how to use it
The question may no longer be simply whether AI should be permitted, but how students can be taught to use it appropriately



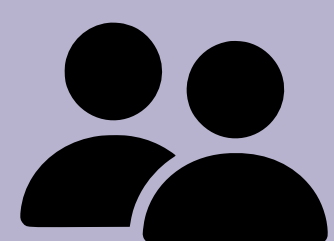
WHO RESPONDED?

84

UNDERGRADUATE
RESPONSES



74 (90.24%) Attended a public high school



18 (21.95%) male
64 (78.05%) female

RESULTS AT A GLANCE



ALLOWED TO USE AI
62 (75.31%)
sometimes or never
M = 4.02 SD = 0.99



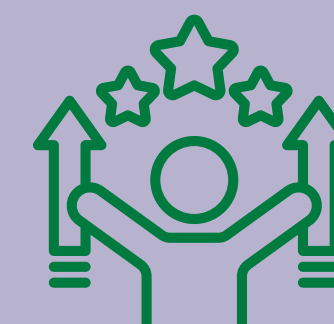
TAUGHT HOW TO USE AI
51 (62.20%)
somewhat/strongly disagree
M = 3.80 SD = 1.31



FREQUENCY OF USE
26 (62.20%)
somewhat to very often
M = 3.01 SD = 1.11



USE OF AI WHEN COMPLETING AN ASSIGNMENT
29 (35.37%)
somewhat/strongly disagree
M = 3.11 SD = 1.26



USING AI IMPROVED GRADES
44 (53.09%) agreeing
14 (17.28%) disagreeing
M = 2.58 SD = 1.14

“The results show that the connections, as indicated by Bandura’s SCT (1986), are in dissonance when it comes to students’ use of AI at the secondary level.”

FRAMEWORK



Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory (SCT) (Bandura, 1986)

The SCT offers a framework of how cognitive, behavior, and environmental factors work dynamically and reciprocally to determine a basis of human behavior

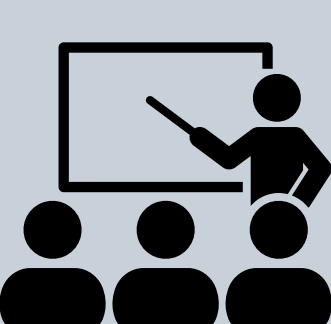
HOW WE DID IT



Study conducted using a survey-based instrument through the Qualtrics Program.



A questionnaire with statements and respondents selected answers on a five-point summated scale



The survey was dispersed to freshman undergraduate students at Stephen F. Austin State University During a level 1000 agriculture course.



Data were analyzed using a descriptive analysis based on the recommendations of Linder and Linder (2024).