Every Story Deserves a Reader.

Overview: The Design Thinking and Innovation Pilot

The Design Thinking and Innovation Pilot establishes the integration of an AI writing platform into the standard literacy block/writers' workshop during the course of an academic day. Rooted in the five stages of Design Thinking (i.e., Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test), the pilot aligns AlsonAI's platform to local, national or global standards, integration into the writing curriculum/writers' workshop model, and anchored in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework (i.e., tiered literacy block). The Design Thinking and Innovation Pilot will produce an instructional infrastructure with tiered implementation processes that will elicit innovation in writing using the AlsonAI platform for authorship, voice, and storytelling.

We Believe that Everyone is a Storyteller and Everyone's Story is Worth Telling

At its core, AlsonAI is seeking to empower youth to understand that they are storytellers and that they have stories worth telling. This is a deliberate shift away from believing that others – other cultures, other places, and other people – are the only ones we should be reading about. We believe that every community should have stories about their experiences, places, and people. This is a purposeful aim to raise local identity and agency and to provide a deeper way for anyone to understand their own stories and those of others. We are seeking to conduct this pilot with teachers and students from across the globe – varying contexts and cultures.

Our Ask

We are seeking 1-2 classes in individual schools to trial AlsonAI as an embedded part of their daily teaching. This is not intended as an extra but rather an enhancement that should be integrated with current lessons. Each student works with their teacher to write, develop, illustrate, and publish their own book.

AlsonAI provides all onboarding, alignment to local standards/benchmarks, personalized suggestions and feedback for both the students and the teacher, and a platform that allows each book to be published on Amazon. Every student is able to receive royalties and receives a copy of their book. We imagine that schools utilizing AlsonAI build a library of locally authored books and use the platform to share their stories globally.

For this initial pilot, we are looking to learn from teachers' use of AlsonAI. How easy and intuitive is it to use? How simple is it to embed into current classes? What changes and support are needed?

We will provide onboarding and also be available for support during the pilot period. Pilot periods can be as short as 4-weeks or as long as a term. At the end every student receives a copy f their book and every teacher is asked to engage in a feedback interview so we can learn from their experience. The cost per student is US$8.99 per month. The monthly subscription ends when the pilot ends.

Implementation and Design Thinking Pilot Process

Phase I: Empathy and Define

The Design Thinking and Innovation Pilot starts with a listening tour (i.e., empathy interviews) that will provide a landscape analysis with writing instruction in the literacy block/writers' workshop. The District/Network Design Team comprised of leaders and teachers, will engage in structured empathy interviews, grade band mapping sessions, and develop a co-designed problem statement workshop facilitated by Ms. Nafisa Muzaffar and Dr. Michael Conner. Simultaneously, Dr. Michael Conner will audit existing writing curriculum, literacy block/writers' workshop, and MTSS documentation to define priorities for the initial pilot integration.

Phase II: Ideate and Design

Phase II of the Design Thinking and Innovation Pilot focuses on co-creating the instructional infrastructure. This includes having the District/Network Design Team conduct a strand-by-strand alignment across Writing, Language, and Speaking & Listening standards for grades K–5, 6-8 to the Alson-AI platform. Foundationally, this phase will generate the MTSS Instructional Framework so pilot teachers would successfully underpin AlsonAI as a core tool across all MTSS tiers within writing instruction.

Phase III: Prototype and Test

One unit for each grade level will be developed to launch in the pilot stage. Lesson plan sets for each unit in conjunction with MTSS implementation protocols will be launched in a cross-parallel manner. This stage of the pilot will be supported by teacher check-ins, professional learning, and technical support from the AlsonAI team.

Phase IV: Iterate and Validate

By the conclusion of the Design Thinking and Innovation Pilot, Dr. Michael Conner will execute a structured evaluation cycle with the District/Network Design Team reviewing the data that was collected. Data collection components from this phase will include student writing samples (i.e., authored books from the launch phase), MTSS implementation trends using an AI platform for writing instruction, teacher feedback for reflection to strengthen the literacy block/writers' workshop model, and platform engagement metrics for suggested instructional enhancements.

Have questions? Just ask nafisa@alson.ai Nafisa Muzaffar (CEO & Founder)