

Reimagining authentic assessment: the power (and some peril) of generative AI



Prof David Smith
Sheffield Hallam University
d.p.smith@shu.ac.uk
[@dave_thesmith](https://twitter.com/dave_thesmith)



Dr Nigel Francis
Cardiff University
francisn10@cardiff.ac.uk
[@nige1980](https://twitter.com/nige1980)

The problem...

How do you adapt to a disruptive digital skill that changes daily?

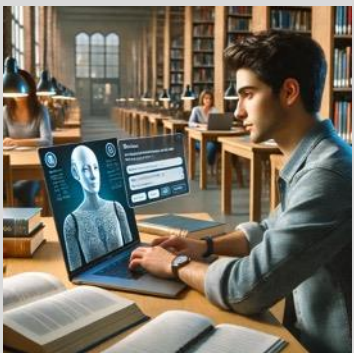
Red Queen Effect

It takes all the
running you can
do, **to keep in the
same place**



© MEEDARYTE #BEYONDOPENNES





UG students know about it...

53% used AI to help with assessments

13% used AI to generate text for assessments...

...only 5% submitted unedited GenAI text

65% think institutions should not accept AI-generated work

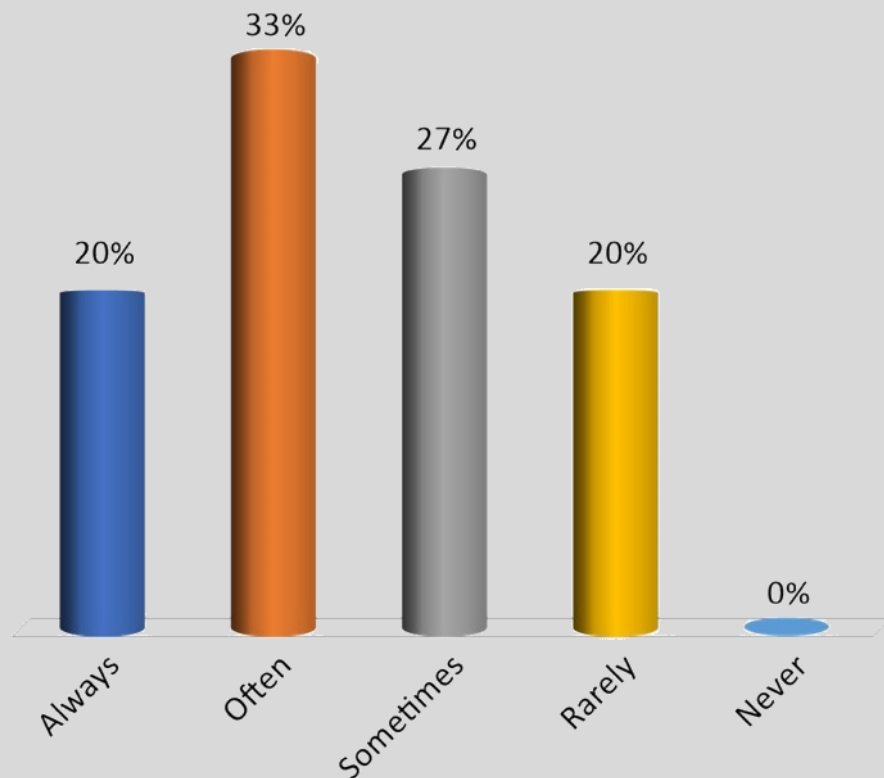
73% expect to use AI after graduation

Only 9% said institutional approaches have changed...

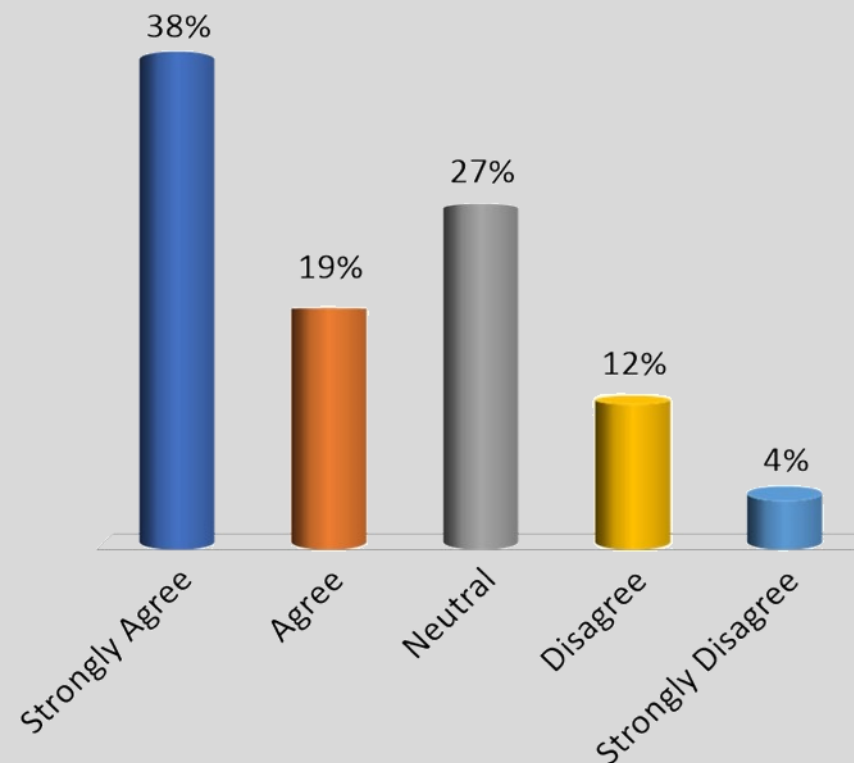


The challenges...

16 to 18-year-olds are a lot more engaged with AI.



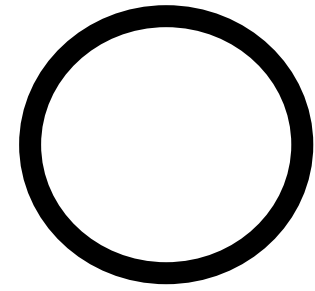
How often do you use AI tools?



Is it acceptable to use AI tools
to write your homework?

The capabilities of AI are expanding...rapidly!

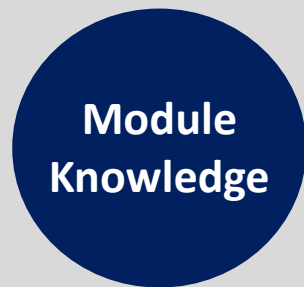




Research
Project
Report

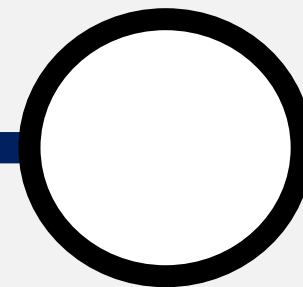
The impact...

Knowledge

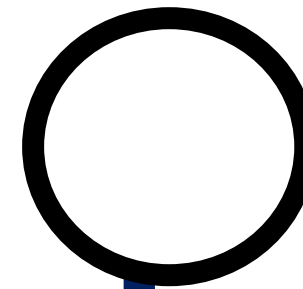


Tutorials

Workshops

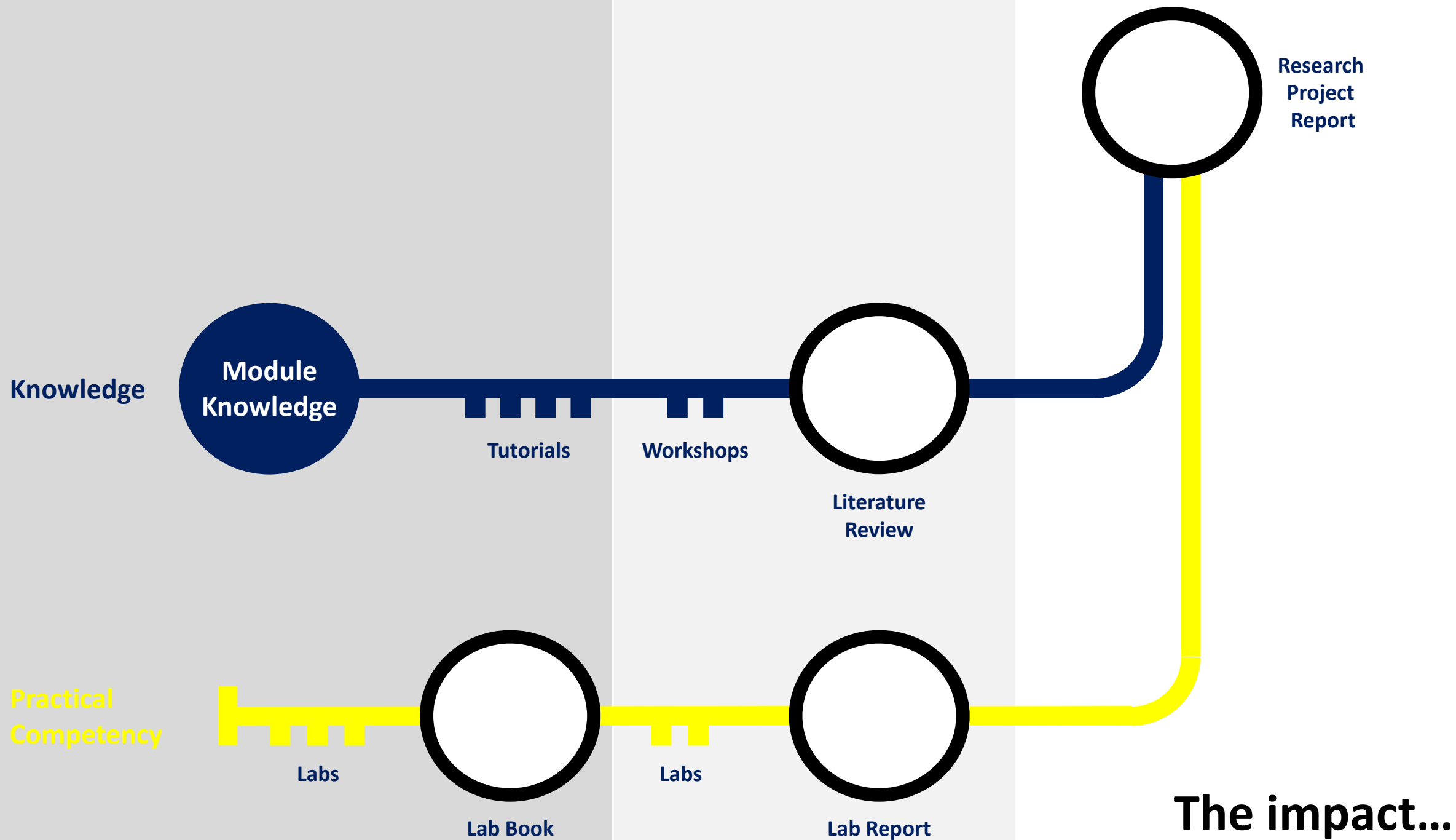


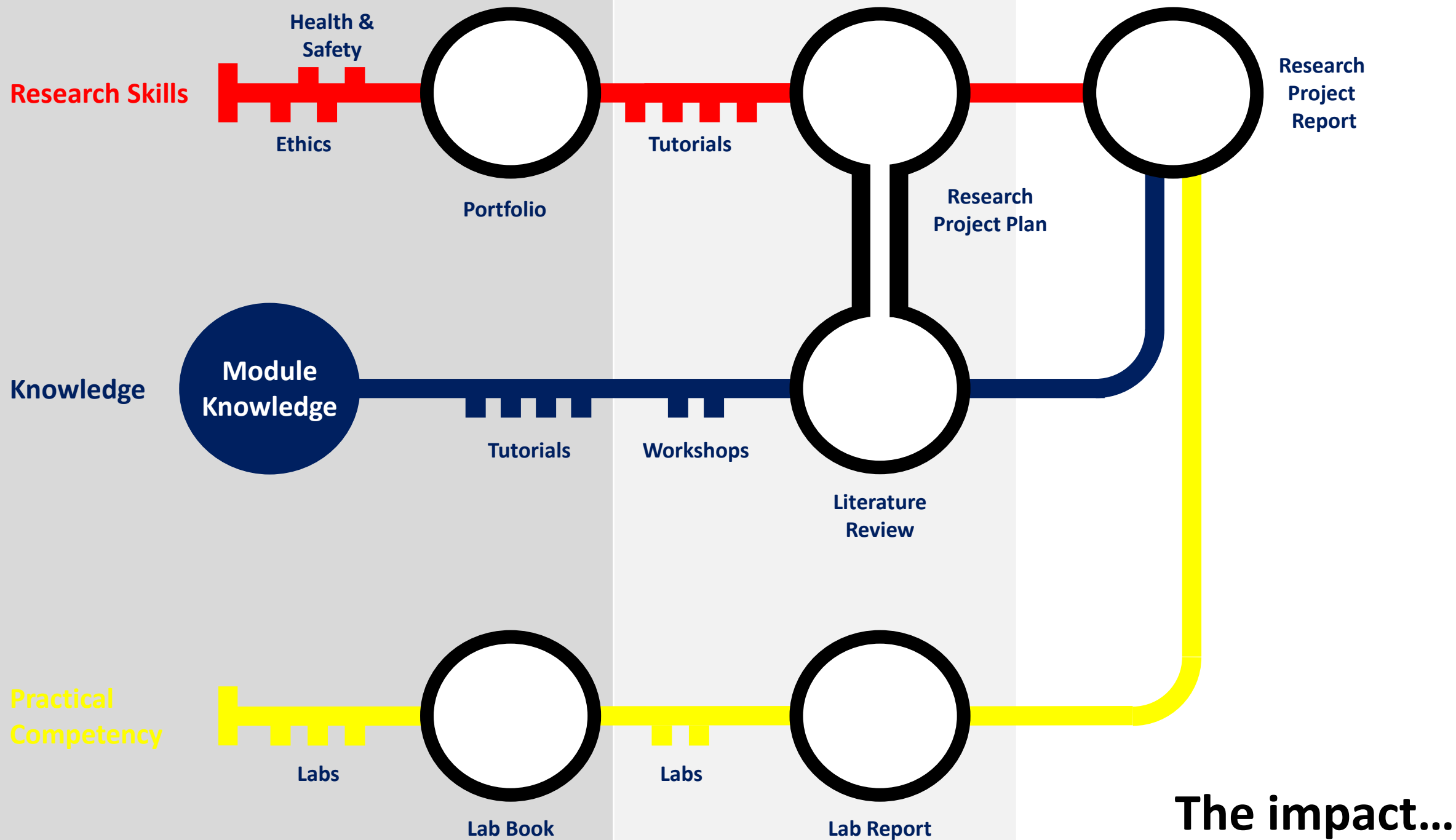
Literature
Review

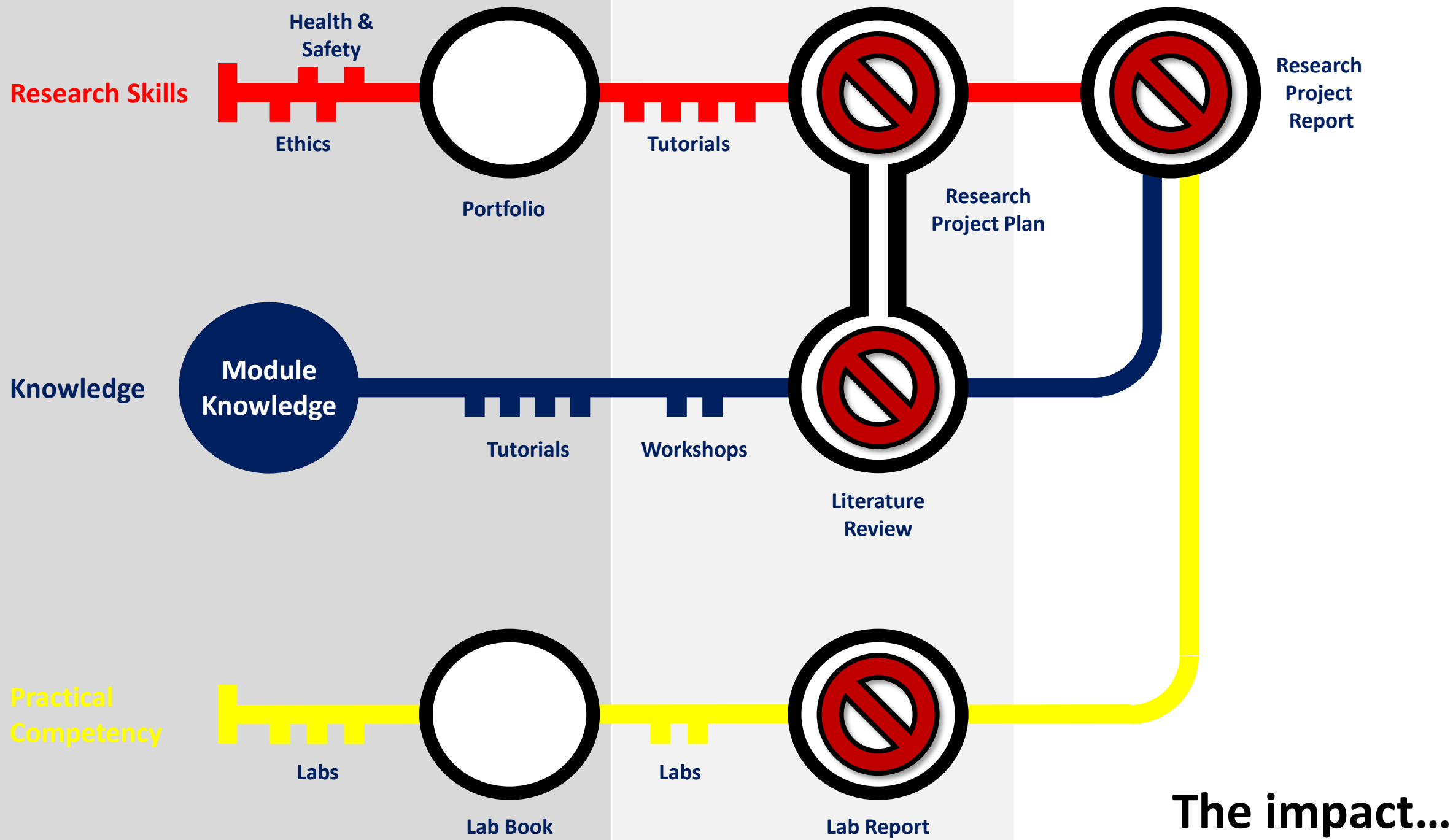


Research
Project
Report

The impact...







Research Skills

Health &
Safety

Ethics

Portfolio

Tutorials

Research
Project Plan

Research
Project
Report

Knowledge

Module
Knowledge

Tutorials

Workshops

Literature
Review

GenAI

Function

Ethics

Use

Practical
Competency

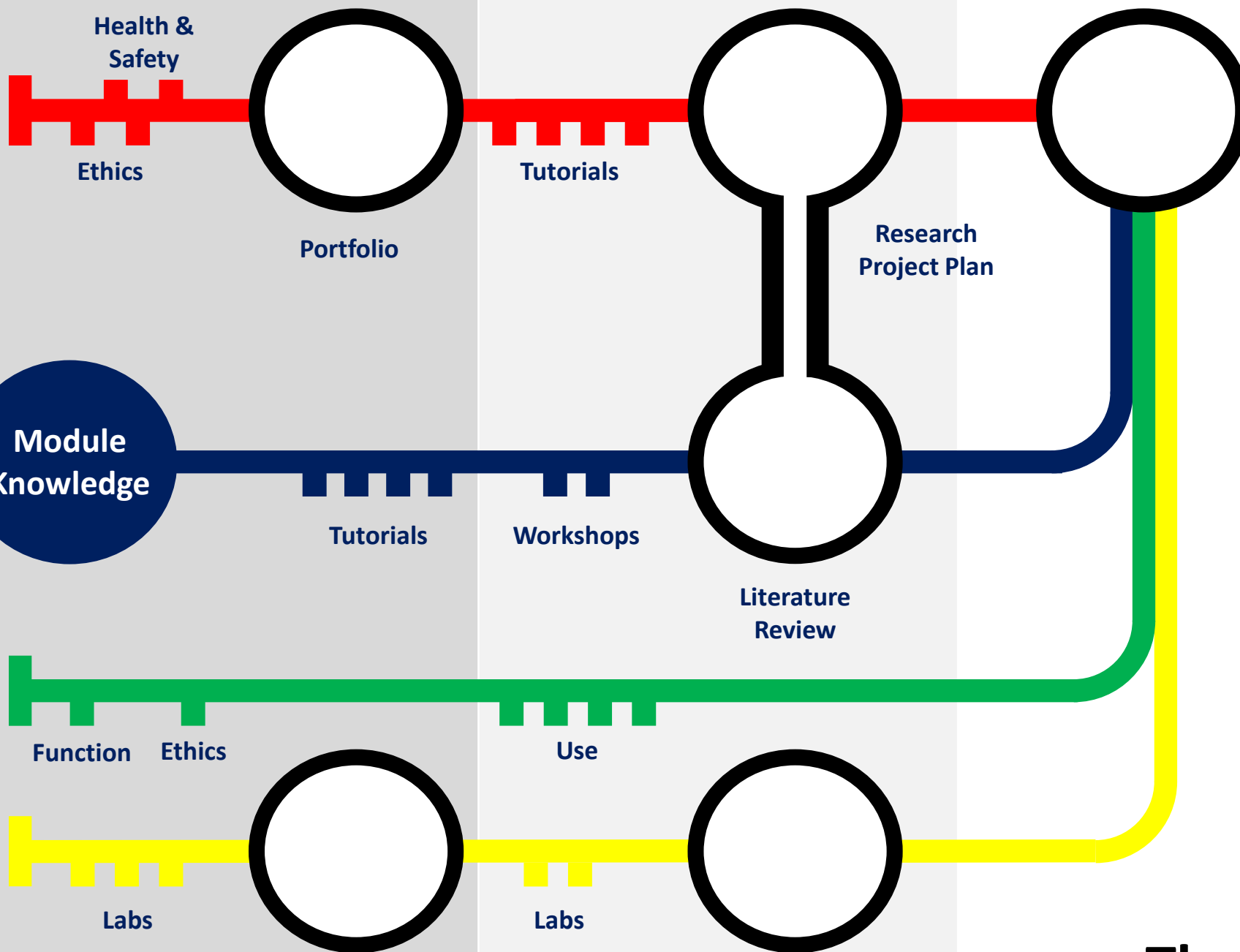
Labs

Lab Book

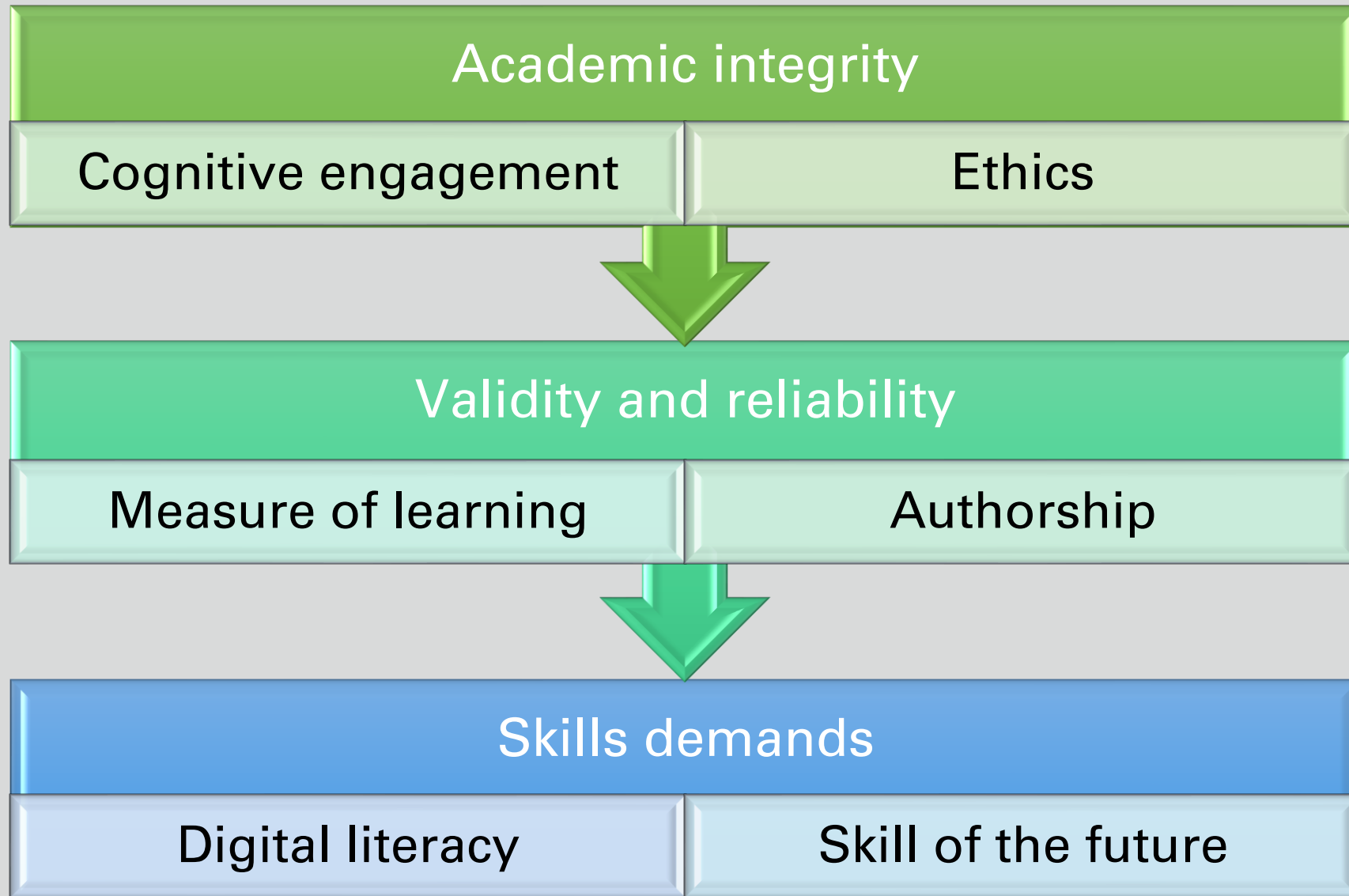
Labs

Lab Report

The impact...



Challenges of GenAI



Bias in the system

Outputs are inherently biased
in content and style

“Create a photo of a typical
academic at an educational
conference.”

It's drawn me! Typical white
European man



A stylized illustration with a warm orange background. On the left, a black silhouette of a factory with two tall smokestacks is shown. The smokestacks have small white horizontal lines and dots. Above the factory, a white, cloud-like shape contains several small black letters: 'A', 'R', '9', 'G', 'A', 'S', 'D', 'N', and a plus sign. On the right, a large red hand is pointing its index finger towards a yellow Bitcoin coin. The coin features a white silhouette of a person's head. The bottom of the image has a green textured band.

Adapting Essay Mills Strategies to AI

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT GENAI - AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT

What can we do about it?

Working-world
relevance

Application of
knowledge

Authentic assessment

Critical thinking

Problem
solving

Principles and benefits of authentic assessment

Contextual learning
Learning in practice

Enhanced engagement
Increased motivation
Relevance and interest

Student centred
Engagement and active learning

Deeper understanding

Reflective practice
Promotes self-assessment

Accurate evaluation
Holistic view of competencies

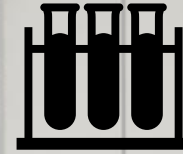
Skill development
Communication, collaboration & ethics



DESIGNING GEN AI INTO AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS



**Oral examinations
or presentations**



**Competency-based
assessments**



**Physical artefact
creation**



**In-person
assessments**



DESIGNING GEN AI INTO AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS

Process

Product

Approach

Continuous evaluation

Emphasis on reflection

Encouraging iteration

Skills

Critical thinking & problem solving

Research/Information literacy

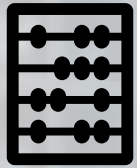
Self-regulated learning

Ethical usage

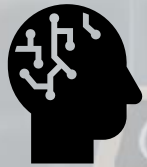
Engaging with GenAI: From adversary to ally



Let's think of GenAI as a tool, not a threat



Opportunity to rethink assessment



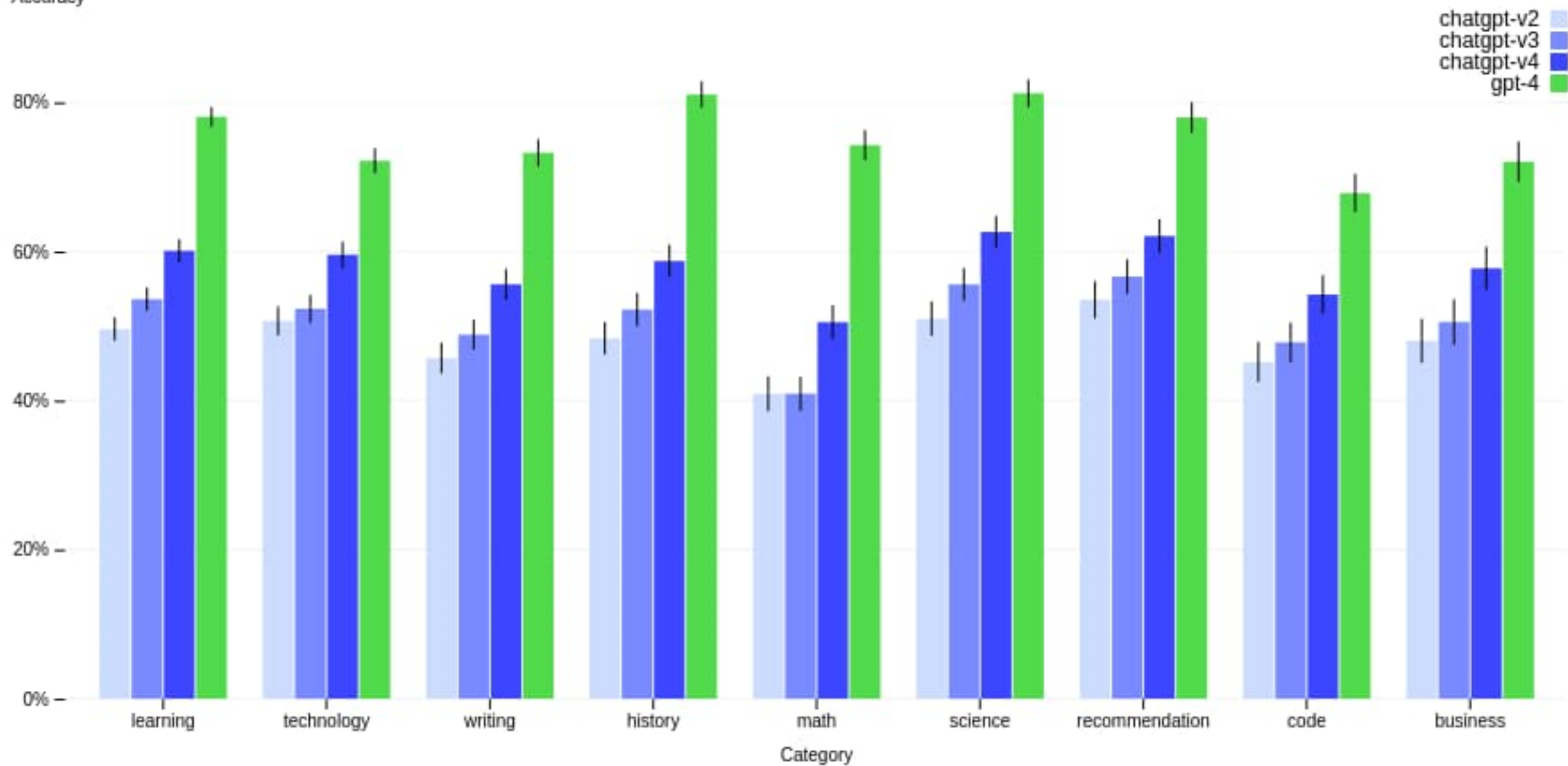
Student – AI partnerships – Brainstorming



Process and critical thinking

Internal factual eval by category

Accuracy



The future of education

Research skills:

Formulating research questions

Critical thinking:

Analysing complex ideas, evaluating evidence, constructing reasoned arguments

Think about competencies

Subject matter:

Substantive knowledge through integrating ideas

Writing skills:

Structure coherent arguments, articulate ideas, appropriate vocabulary and style



THE AI FORGE

Crafting the Future of Academic Innovation with AI



**Thank you &
questions**

Resources and examples
within the HE context