

# 25 Creative Ways to Integrate Smarthinking into Your Course

1. “Break the ice” by mentioning Smarthinking in your syllabus. Consider including a brief overview of available services and instructions for access.
2. Remind students about Smarthinking during exam reviews. Tutoring can supplement in-class review and provide individualized guidance to students who need additional help.
3. Provide supplemental exercises for your students to practice the current lesson, but let Smarthinking take it from there! Students can check their work and solutions with a tutor, sparing you time-consuming grading and benefitting the student with immediate feedback.
4. A student is not comprehending introductory material. In Week 3, it becomes apparent that this student is struggling with the course overall. A series of scheduled tutoring sessions, at times convenient for the student, can provide regular guidance and direction in course material as well as support for review of prerequisite concepts.
5. As an instructor, you know that many students are too afraid or intimidated to ask for help. Recommend Smarthinking as an anonymous alternative to in-person tutoring.
6. For term-length projects, require students to check in with tutors throughout the process. Smarthinking’s subject-matter experts can help students plan, execute, and understand their research and findings, while writing tutors can help students develop and refine their final reports.
7. You’ve recommended tutoring to a student struggling in your course, but he doesn’t have time to meet with someone due to his hectic schedule. He can drop off a question including his work so far; within 24 hours, a tutor will provide feedback on work shown and guidance on the next steps.
8. Use Smarthinking group tutoring sessions for a collaborative assignment. Students can collect information individually, then compile results and discuss together via group whiteboard technology. If the students need help, they can invite a tutor to join the session. As with all Smarthinking sessions, participants can easily review the session content at a later time.
9. Allow students to recover points from a test or assignment by working out correct answers with a Smarthinking tutor. Students can print their session to turn in for credit.
10. A student in one of your upper-level courses is struggling with prerequisite material. Encourage him to work with Smarthinking tutors to get up to speed and increase his odds of success in the course.
11. Require (or strongly recommend) your students to submit drafts of their discussion board posts to Smarthinking prior to sharing. Writing tutors will help ensure those posts are mechanically correct and fully developed, maximizing the utility of the discussion board for your course.
12. Encourage (or require) students to join a Smarthinking session at the start of the term. This allows students to become familiar with Smarthinking’s process and technology before any urgent need arises.

13. A student missed class due to illness, and now she's having trouble with her homework. A session with a drop-in tutor can help her catch up with the concepts and understand the assignment.
14. Help students stay competitive in their job or internship search by encouraging them to submit resumes and cover letters to Smarthinking career writing tutors. Our tutors help students perfect these essential materials and present themselves in the most effective, professional way.
15. Hold virtual office hours with an instructor-led Smarthinking group session.
16. Encourage major students to enhance the breadth and depth of their understanding during introductory courses by working with Smarthinking tutors. This is a great way to prepare for upper-level courses!
17. Near the conclusion of the course, remind students that they can revisit challenging concepts by reviewing their archived sessions from earlier in the term.
18. For written assignments, require a minimum of one Smarthinking essay review prior to final submission so the quality of the written work you receive is improved and better developed. You will be able to focus more on the content of your students' work when you're less distracted by sentence-level and coherence issues in the writing itself.
19. One of your students has collected data for a research project, but she isn't experienced with data analysis. Suggest she join a live drop-in statistics session to discuss the optimal approach with a tutor.
20. Prior to an exam, students can use a Smarthinking group session to form an online study group. If the group is at an impasse, they can invite a Smarthinking tutor to the same whiteboard to help.
21. Show your students a brief video walkthrough of Smarthinking on your first day of class to help explain and demonstrate the ways they can connect to a tutor for additional assistance outside of your office hours.
22. You require each assignment to be accompanied by an APA-formatted report. Subject-specific tutors can help students verify the accuracy and content of the report, while writing tutors can help students with APA style formatting and citation.
23. Consider setting a threshold for tutoring requirements. All students have the option to benefit from Smarthinking, but you might require students who maintain a grade below the threshold to use tutoring at a specified frequency.
24. Refer ESL and remedial students to work with Smarthinking writing tutors to address mechanical issues in written assignments prior to submission. You can also have these students print out and attach the tutor's detailed feedback to keep you apprised of their specific writing challenges.
25. Offer extra credit for students who use Smarthinking.