

Professors have a summer assignment: Prevent ChatGPT chaos in the fall



AI chatbots have triggered a panic among educators, who are flooding listservs, webinars and professional conferences to figure out how to deal with the technology

By [Pranshu Verma](#)

Soon after ChatGPT was released in November, Darren Keast noticed students in his college English composition class turning in essays that read as if they'd been written by machine. Many contained fabricated quotes and cited sources that didn't exist — telltale signs they were created by the artificial intelligence chatbot. He's dreading a repeat of that confusion this fall, so he scrambled over summer break to adapt.

While hiking in Costa Rica, Keast consumed AI podcasts talking about the software's existential risk to humanity. At home in Mill Valley, Calif., he's spent hours online in fiery group discussions about whether AI chatbots should be used in the classroom. In the car, Keast queried his kids for their thoughts on the software until they begged him to stop.

"They're like: 'You got to get a life, this is getting crazy,'" he said. "But [AI] totally transformed my whole professional experience."

Keast isn't alone. The rise of AI chatbots has sowed confusion and panic among educators who worry they are ill-equipped to incorporate the technology into their classes and fear a stark rise in plagiarism and reduced learning. Absent guidance from university administrators on how to deal with the software, many teachers are taking matters into their own hands, turning to listservs, webinars and professional conferences to fill in gaps in their knowledge — many shelling out their own money to attend conference sessions that are packed to the brim.

Even with this ad hoc education, there is little consensus among educators: for every professor who touts the tool's wonders there's another that says it will bring about doom.

A professor accused his class of using ChatGPT, putting diplomas in jeopardy

The lack of consistency worries them. When students come back to campus this fall, some teachers will allow AI, but others will ban it. Some universities will have modified their dishonesty policies to take AI into account, but others avoid the subject. Teachers may rely on inadequate AI-writing detection tools and risk wrongly accusing students, or opt for student surveillance software, to ensure original work.

Keast is worried about artificial intelligence's impact on his classroom this fall. (Charles Ommanney for The Washington Post)

For Keast, who teaches at the City College of San Francisco, there's only one word to describe the next semester.

"Chaotic," he said.

After ChatGPT became public on Nov. 30, it created a stir. The AI chatbot could spit out lifelike responses to any question — crafting essays, finishing computer code or writing poems.

Educators knew immediately they were facing a generational shift for the classroom. Many professors worried that students would use it for homework and tests. Others compared the technology to the calculator, arguing teachers would have to provide assignments that could be completed with AI.

Institutions such as Sciences Po, a university in Paris, and RV University in Bangalore, India, banned ChatGPT, concerned it would undermine learning and encourage cheating. Professors at colleges such as the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and Ithaca College in New York allowed it, arguing that students should be proficient in it.

Tools to detect AI-written content have added to the turmoil. They are notoriously unreliable and have resulted in what students say are false accusations of cheating and failing grades. OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, unveiled an AI-detection tool in January, but quietly scrapped it on July 20 due to its “low rate of accuracy.” One of the most prominent tools to detect AI-written text, created by plagiarism detection company Turnitin.com, frequently flagged human writing as AI-generated, according to a Washington Post examination.

Representatives from OpenAI pointed to an online post stating they “are currently researching more effective provenance techniques for text.” Turnitin.com did not respond to a request for comment.

We tested a new ChatGPT-detector for teachers. It flagged an innocent student.

Students are adjusting their behavior to avoid getting impacted by the uncertainty. Jessica Zimny, a student at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Tex., said she was wrongly accused of using AI to cheat this summer. A 302-word post she wrote for a political science class assignment was flagged as 67 percent AI-written, according to Turnitin.com’s detection tool — resulting in her professor giving her a zero.

Jessica Zimny, a sophomore at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Tex., said she was wrongly accused of using AI to cheat this summer. (Courtesy of Jessica Zimny) Zimny, 20, said she plead her case to her professor, the head of the school’s political science department and a university dean, to no avail. Now, she screen-records herself doing assignments — capturing ironclad proof she did the work in case she ever is ever accused again, she said.

“I don’t like the idea that people are thinking that my work is copied, or that I don’t do my own things originally,” Zimny, a fine arts student, said. “It just makes me mad and upset and I just don’t want that to happen again.”

On Turnitin.com, one of Jessica Zimny’s assignment for her summer political science class was incorrectly flagged as being 67% written by AI. (Washington Post illustration; Jessica Zimny/TWP)

All of this has left professors hungry for guidance, knowing their students will be using ChatGPT when the fall rolls around, said Anna Mills, a writing teacher at the College of Marin who sits on a joint AI task force with the Modern Language Association (MLA) and College Conference on Composition and Communication (CCCC).

Because universities aren't providing much help, professors are flocking to informal online discussion groups, professional development webinars and conferences for information.

Teachers are on alert for inevitable cheating after release of ChatGPT

When Mills talked on a webinar hosted by the MLA and CCCC for AI in writing in late-July, a time when many teachers might be in the throes of summer break, more than 3,000 people signed up and ultimately more than 1,700 people tuned in — unusual numbers for the groups' trainings.

"It speaks to the sense of anxiety," Mills said. In fact, a survey of 456 college educators in March and April conducted by the task force revealed the largest worries professors have about AI are its role in fostering plagiarism, the inability to detect AI-written text and that the technology would prevent students from learning how to write, learn and develop critical thinking skills.

Mills and her task force colleagues are trying to clear up misconceptions. They explain that it's not easy to recognize AI-generated text and caution the use of software to crack down on student plagiarism. Mills said AI is not only a tool used for cheating, but can be harnessed to spur critical thinking and learning.

"People are overwhelmed and recognizing that this new situation demands a lot of time and careful attention, and it's very complex," she added. "There are not easy answers to it."

Anna Mills, on screen, and other members of the AI and Writing Task Force during an in-person retreat at Google Learning Center in New York City. Task Force Members gathered to set priorities, meet with organizational leaders, and finalize its first working paper. (MLA-CCCC Joint Task Force on Writing and AI)

Marc Watkins, an academic innovation fellow and writing lecturer at the University of Mississippi, said teachers are keenly aware that if they don't learn more about AI, they may rob their students of a tool that could aid learning. That's why they're seeking professional development on their own, even if they have to pay for it or take time away from families.

Watkins, who helped create an AI-focused professional development course at his university, recalled a lecture he gave on how to use AI in the classroom at a conference in Nashville this summer. The interest was so intense, he said, that more than 200 registered educators clamored for roughly 70 seats, forcing conference officials to shut the door early to prevent over crowding.

Cheating-detection companies made millions during the pandemic. Now students are fighting back.

Watkins advises professors to follow a few steps. They should rid themselves of the notion that banning ChatGPT will do much, since the tool is publicly available. Rather, they should set limitations on how it can be used in class and have a conversation with

students early in the semester about the ways chatbots could foster nuanced thinking on an assignment.

For example, Watkins said, ChatGPT can help students brainstorm questions they go onto investigate, or create counterarguments to strengthen their essays.

But several professors added that getting educators to think on the same page is a daunting task, that is unlikely for the fall semester. Professional development modules must be developed to explain how teachers talk to students about AI, how to incorporate it into learning, and what to do when students are flagged as writing an entire post by a chatbot.

Watkins said if colleges don't figure out how to deal with AI quickly, there is a possibility colleges rely on surveillance tools, such as they did during the pandemic, to track student keystrokes, eye movements and screen activity, to ensure students are doing the work.

"It sounds like hell to me," he said.

My son took a class at a community college. One of his assignments was severely downgraded because the professor's programs said it was AI generated. My son said it wasn't and I believe my son. He is scrupulously responsible. The program used by the community college for completing assignments has a component the students can use to check their responses for AI generated content. My son used that before submitting his assignment and the amount of AI generated content was zero. When he asked his professor about the situation the professor said he used his own program to check for AI content. The professor compromised and raised my son's score to a B level but my son didn't cheat and deserved an A like he had received on every other assignment. I told my son to complain but he would not.

That professor's conduct is blatantly unfair to every student. The college cannot use one AI program and an individual professor another. And the professor acted surreptitiously when he didn't tell the students he was going to use a program that was either not vetted by the university or was vetted and rejected in favor of the program eventually chosen.

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Forced Birth Nation

9 minutes ago

You know what's really funny? Just like a calculator, online writing tools might actually help students think critically and write better.

But their ability to do this might threaten some paranoid academics.

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Johnny M K

12 minutes ago

The assumption that universities are providing no guidance on ChatGPT and other AI tools ignores a crucial service to instructors: teaching centers at universities. See, for example, the CITL at IU Bloomington. The author seems to have no knowledge of these centers. However, I'm glad that the author highlights the important work of MLA/CCCC.

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Watching the river flow

12 minutes ago

I'm no expert, but I would bet that more students than not will use AI routinely to write papers and perhaps to solve math homework problems or answer science homework question and/or solve problems if they know others are doing it and that there is little chance of getting caught. AI might even be able to write code if given a specific mission.

Doesn't that just about cover every subject? I guess it leaves artistic efforts, but we've seen early examples of not all that bad poetry and visual art, and AI will get better and even be told to use specific styles perhaps created by a student to personalize the output. I guess AI won't be able to touch actual playing of musical instruments, singing, dancing, or acting, and can't do other physical activities, but I'm not sure there are any other areas in which it cannot now produce credible output that will be difficult to prove was not AI generated.

That's not going to be education. Those schools and teachers saying students should be able to use it because they need to learn how to use it best seem full of it to me. Sure, if you plan to get a job in AI development and, of course, eventually in controlling AI from harming us, then yeah, you need to use it and learn everything about it. However, if you are interested in developing your own mind and intellect in most any other subject, then you can't do that by letting AI write your papers or solve your problems or create your art.

I agree with the teachers who see this as a nightmare. What will happen to our current and future generations of students?

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richard joseph

44 minutes ago

"Nothing in Biology makes sense except in the light of evolution." (Dobzhansky).

Given this, **human** intelligence has been an important characteristic in how we have evolved as a species. Does the widespread use of **artificial** intelligence alter our evolutionary path forward?

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Watching the river flow

9 minutes ago

It would seem so at this juncture in time. If there is no way to distinguish between AI output and student output, then more students than not will use it because they know they have to compete with those who will. Consequently, how will they develop their own minds?

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Everybody In

51 minutes ago

I'm a college professor. I don't think banning AI is about "robbing students of a tool to enhance learning". All the "use AI to generate an essay, then have the students critique the essay" is pretty much bunk. We're fishing for ways to responsibly incorporate AI, because they will be using it in their careers, but it's hard to know what constitutes responsible use. Being a scientist, I focus on original data collection and analysis. Perhaps AI can assist them in formulating hypotheses. At the end of the day, I'll tell them, the more you lean on AI, the more you're training yourself for a career that AI will render obsolete. Original thought will be a paramount skill in the future.

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Stable Genius

42 minutes ago

(Edited)

At the end of the day, I'll tell them, the more you lean on AI, the more you're training yourself for a career that AI will render obsolete. Original thought will be a paramount skill in the future.

This. I am also a college professor, and this is very close to what my students hear from me about AI. Those who think I'm exaggerating or are too pressed for time to do their assignments without AI find out when I return their work that they actually need to know something about the topic in order to "fool" me with an AI-generated text.

I don't accuse students of using AI, but I do tell them that their "method" let them down.

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CrazyCanuck

28 minutes ago

Well said. I am also a professor. In a course I teach where students do some basic programming in SQL, I am going to allow, even encourage, the use of AI to formulate code. My rationale is that computer programmers have always openly shared code online. Students still have to explain in words what the code is telling the computer to do, so I don't think it will hinder their learning at all.

I do struggle when it comes to other courses where students have to write short essays. I like the idea of explaining to them that excessive reliance on AI will hinder their future career prospects.

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BreatheStillness

1 hour ago

When these students get to their jobs/careers, all will be screened put. If they can't think or write, or analyze independently, they will get fired. Cheating is an integrity thing. Students either have it or not.

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Craig Johnson

2 hours ago

The issues the article discusses are important, but if I were a professor or university administrator a greater fear would keep me up at night. How can a university education prepare students for a world that AI will alter in ways that are not yet understood? Many of the skills being taught may soon be devalued. Writing. Legal work. Accounting. Coding. Industries and careers are being disrupted rapidly and irrevocably. Education will need to keep pace. Plagiarism is the least of their problems.

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randy FL

4 hours ago

As a teacher, I viewed a few teacher-produced YouTube videos about ChatGPT. Impressive to say the least. I suggest allowing students to use it to submit assignments. Then, the teacher can direct ChatGPT to "create 10 quiz questions related to this essay, with answer key." If the author cannot score 100%, well... you decide. He who lives by the sword...

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CrazyCanuck

26 minutes ago

I like this idea!

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Maybeeknot

5 hours ago

Write in the moment, in class, by hand (oops, we have to teach cursive again....) Even if this method doesn't solve this particular learning crisis, it will improve a student's ability to think and write. There is a joy in thinking that can't be replaced by Chat GPT -- maybe if we harnessed "joy" rather than simply assigning "work," we'd find less reliance on tools that attempt to short-circuit independent thought.

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Roger Smith

4 hours ago

A response to the future should not be an attempt to recreate the past.

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HandOfFate

7 hours ago

(Edited)

Cause the tool to create an accessible log of every answer it generates every time for every user.

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Jeb Bushell

6 hours ago

1984.

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DemureD

7 hours ago

I haven't seen in the article or in the comments even an example of how ChatGPT would be beneficial in a classroom, let alone a thorough explanation of that. How is it any different from a search on a topic? Except that it writes an essay. College students should know how to write essays, even if it means taking a remedial writing course. And citations should not be dispensed with! They have to show their work.

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VerySeriousLawyerPerson

7 hours ago

If learning to write well is the point, then assigning in-class work by hand is the solution. Im not attending some conference to deal with this.

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AntoniusWP

7 hours ago

I think it can only help with students. It has to be incorporated as an assitant to help students learn how to write. The best part about AI is that it does not provide sources. You have to know where the source is so in reality this is the work the student must provide. Citing works that the AI is refering to and also leanring how to do it. AI is also not perfect so the student has to proof read and check the facts all another learning process. They will have to use it regardless. I use AI all the time now and it is not always correct and it does not have a source for the knowledge, however, I have learned so much from it and believe I have attained a higher level of knowledge about the subject than ever before. So it can help. You have to enforce sources and how you know what you know. One paragraph on how did you do the research, where did you get sources, etc. Even if you use AI, it must be cited...I use 4.0 version in a lot of my work. It is amazing.

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tulipsinyard

7 hours ago

Regardless of the merits of AI, I was perturbed by the notion that professors were 'looking for guidance' from their universities and the administrators. Last I checked, the professoriate IS the university, not the administrators. The high variation in responses about how AI will be/should be used - this is how academic freedom is supposed to work. 'Professional development modules'? Different disciplines will have different requirements from students, and different learning

outcomes. Adapting will be hard, and the form quite specific to the academic discipline. We -must- figure this out, at a granular level, and it takes work.
How is 'university guidance' supposed to substitute for our own scholarly responsibilities?

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VerySeriousLawyerPerson

7 hours ago

It's because of the distinction between acceptable norms and academic misconduct. It's a question of whether the students "cheated" by using a chat bot, a potentially serious charge.

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swift_goat_pet_for_truth

7 hours ago

The universities are not helping?

Then the admin is incompetent.

This affects almost every class (not performance arts or fine arts) and every student.

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swift_goat_pet_for_truth

7 hours ago

in person oral exams

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cuentaanonima

5 hours ago

yes in a 200-seat lecture class

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bf444

7 hours ago

How about in class handwritten quizzes and essays?
No computers or phones allowed. Worked for me.

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FritzLang

8 hours ago

(Edited)

The problem is not this new cheating tool, since cheating has been possible before. The problem is the generation of students who think it is okay to go to school, learn nothing, and cheat on papers and expect no reprisal or that they will be ever able to hold down any non-sheet job.

So far AI papers earn a C or lower, they cannot do citation right, and they use the most trite dumb sounding writing. If I catch you, you fail or get kicked out of school. Some day, if you are lucky to get a job with your C/D-grades in college (that

you cheated to get), then you will be so clueless as to how to do your job. So much dumb going around now that is thinking its so clever. Those who actually try to learn something in school are the ones who'll be running everything and making all the \$ in 10 years. Cheaters gotta cheat, and losers gonna lose.

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Mark Norwood Lan

7 hours ago
Did AI write this?
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your friendly neighborhood librarian

8 hours ago
Typewriters ftw.
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Marcus Aurelius 121

8 hours ago
Easy solution. Takes 20-30 seconds to find out -- copy and paste student's work into 'GPTZero' OR 'AI Text Classifier' OR 'Originality.AI' OR 'Writer AI Content Detector' and you will get a response within seconds if the writeup was done by a machine or not. It's 99.9% accurate. Next issue?

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FritzLang

7 hours ago
absolutely right.
All this BS about "AI" blah blah is just hype.
It is just a plagiarism machine, and plagiarisers are generally failures in the big scheme of things.
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Marcus Aurelius 121

7 hours ago
(Edited)
....and just tried it myself. Literally 10 seconds and is spots materials written by AI 100% of the time.

<https://gptzero.me>

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DemureD

7 hours ago
plagiarists
share

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Johnny1981

8 hours ago

They are notoriously unreliable and have resulted in what students say are false accusations of cheating and failing grades.

So the students who are accused of using A.I. are the ones saying the detectors are unreliable? Then it must be true!

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

because they didn't cite correctly where they got thier info from...does not matter if you do it or an AI does it for you... still cheating, kids. Sorry to inform you.

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zoester

8 hours ago

Here's an idea: Have students write a few papers in class on paper, no computers. Then let them turn in their longer papers, written on their own time, and compare.

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Johnny1981

8 hours ago

The assignments should have the same parameters.

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send in the clownss

8 hours ago

My daughter is in college. She says everybody uses ChatGPT. If you don't you are at a disadvantage. She says students run their essays through the same checking software the professors use and then make modifications until the essays come back as not written by AI. At that point they are submitted.

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D D Marshall

8 hours ago

(Edited)

Such students begin at a disadvantage and end up disadvantaged for all the learning they failed to do. Cheats are a liability to us all. I hope your daughter takes the high road and will merit her degree in the end. She'll have much to tell, other than gossip about how she cheated her way through college and came out a fool.

I retired 5 years ago from a 42 year career as a professor of mathematics and computer science. The new cheating programs would not profit my students since their exams were in-class and solving fresh (never before seen) problems.

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Johnny1981

8 hours ago

(Edited)

She says everybody uses ChatGPT. If you don't you are at a disadvantage .

Sounds like a rationalization to use CharGPT.

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

(Edited)

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

never gonna last in a real job ever

pretty dumb

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your friendly neighborhood librarian

7 hours ago

Name the disadvantage.

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send in the clownss

8 hours ago

If it's important, use a blue book during class time. How hard can that be.

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

It is not hard.

Some profs are too lazy to read student papers and if they did the GPT papers would not score well.

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DemureD

7 hours ago

How can they grade papers if they don't read them?

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Member101

8 hours ago

Why would students want to learn little but cheating while they will graduate with a fake degree and a real student loan?

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D D Marshall

8 hours ago

How well put!

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spencer13105

9 hours ago

Eliminate essays and instead do in class work only. Its a hassle, to be sure, and naturally some students get anxious, but it at least eliminates cheating.

Nothing like the light of day to sift out the pretenders from the creative folks.

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JACarpenter

9 hours ago

(Edited)

If a university relies on an honor code, I don't see why something about AI use shouldn't be incorporated into it, and more or less relied on -- at least as much as the rest of an honor code is relied on.

But as an aside, there is a flip side to this discussion: professors using AI to grade and more importantly critique student work. I find it philosophically troubling that a diligent student that pours hours into his best effort at an essay may find that the essay is never actually read by another human being.

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

absolutely.

profs who use AI ought to get paid less

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bf444

7 hours ago

Honor codes don't work. I was at a university with an honor code and caught many students cheating. You have to have in class essay exams, handwritten, no computers. Also in class quizzes. The students have to know the material or they can't pass.

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William Johnston

9 hours ago

Try banning electronic devices from the classroom and giving exams written by hand for evaluations.

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Gforce63

9 hours ago

I've never used ChatGPT, but have heard (from various sources) that all a savvy student needs to do to is provide ChatGPT a sample of their own authentic writing, mistakes and all, and then tell ChatGPT "make the ChatGPT essay look more like my writing style" ... THEN also purposefully add a few spelling/grammar errors. The result is fairly high quality but supposedly impossible for any instructor to question. True??

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

[not true](#)

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Beyond Good and Evil

9 hours ago

Only the ignorant/arrogant masses, forever tormented by their inability to find *meaning*, mindlessly addicted to popularity and conspicuous consumption, will be corrupted by AI.

After all, few Americans think, but all will have an opinion.

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D D Marshall

8 hours ago

Blunt, frank, and true.

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taoskier

9 hours ago

I can tell if a student wrote the paper himself or herself sometimes by just the first sentence or just any random sentence. Say, "The Seventh Fleet steamed east." Or "The suiting for this year will be far different than for last year." The first example, especially with no citations or quotation marks, is obviously something a journalist with 30 years experience might write. The second is fashion jargon.

Proving plagiarism is difficult, and even if you can prove it, many administrators don't want to hear it. So I put in guidelines that a student must follow. I do it over a number of days so the ne'r-do-wells will be absent for part of it. They will not be able to load these guidelines into AI because they don't know them, and/or they can't understand them.

I'll spend hours with a student who's struggling. But I won't spend more than a minute with a cheater.

Luckily, I retired before AI was a factor. However, the techniques I used are still valid. Oh, and questioning a students about their papers, you will often find that they know nothing about them. How'd you know it was the Seventh Fleet? What made you pick the word "steamed"? What is "suiting" and why is it changing? And, Mr Smith, this bit of your paper about "dark matter" and "cyclotrons," could you clarify the connection? I mean, you wrote it, right? Mr Smith: "Well, actually my girlfriend wrote it." I like honest students, so Smith gets a spiel on why plagiarism is bad and a warning not to do it again.

The most dishonest one was a student who copied out of the DLB, the Dictionary of Literary Biography. English Chair: This is plagiarism. Student: No. It's from notes I took in high school from Ms Whoever. Chair: Then she was plagiarizing.

In short, I kicked him out of my class. Then, when he went back in class to get his stuff, a girl asked why he was leaving. "He don't want me in class no more," as though I'm the bad guy. He should have said, "Because I plagiarized my last paper."

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2357111317

9 hours ago

As if there hasn't always been massive amounts cheating for take-home work. In-class exams solves the whole issue: sure, you can't ask questions that are as in-depth, but at least you're able to have more honest evaluations of the student.

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TreeLady

9 hours ago

Tell the students that this is their chance to get coaching on a skill that they will need in future courses and possibly in future jobs.

Cheating with ChatGPT may get them an A or B in this course, but not learning the skill will cost them in the future.

And require links to any cited sources. Even a hard copy book has a presence online, if only as a used book for sale or a catalog entry at the college library.

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DIllll 😊

9 hours ago

The article was poorly edited, with numerous grammar and wording mistakes.

For example, the past tense of "plead" is "pled."

The Washington Post staff should have pasted the entire article into ChatGPT and requested a cleanup, since ChatGPT does a reasonably good job of copy editing.

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zoester

8 hours ago

It's August. No regular copy editors. Also, it's "pleaded," not "pled."

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BillyD1976

9 hours ago

(Edited)

I am conflicted. My course has three essays. The assignments are designed to make arguments from textual evidence. I have seen my students' writings improve over the semester and, in fact, my class consistently produces several students a year that go on to top-five law schools.

I have thought about moving to blue books. The advantage of blue books is that they are more full proof against chatGPT.

But the cost is that blue books exams or essays provide no real skill. When in life will you be asked to write an essay in a blue book? But as a lawyer, professional, journalist, etc., you may have to write arguments from evidence.

So, I decided to keep my three essays. The downside is that cheating will be easier. But, on the other hand, should I deny my good and decent students a vital skill because probably half the students lack the moral decency to not cheat?

I don't know what to do. I just don't want to overreact and deny good students a rigorous education.

And, yes, I do consider students who cheat moral scum.

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Doug Neidermeyer

9 hours ago

I'm curious. Have you tried to run the essays questions through chatgpt to get a sense of how good the result is?

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BillyD1976

7 hours ago

I did. The results were bad because ChatGPT makes up the quotes. The students are writing on a book and has to show evidence for their claims, interpret passages and chatGPT is bad at interpretation.

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mbkoahu

8 hours ago

How about doing both out of class and in class (blue book) essays? Perhaps you could do two of each instead of three all written outside of class.

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BillyD1976

7 hours ago

I think that is a good idea! I might try that.

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

When in life will you be asked to write an essay in a blue book?

For instance when someone asks you to tell them what you know about something, without looking it up.

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pmichaelsartist-at-large

9 hours ago

Think I would be inclined to give an extemporaneous writing assignment every week in class - you know, just the student, pen and paper - to write for about 30 minutes on a given topic, no help from computer or other device. If I had say, 10 of these writing samples from each of the students like this each semester in my folder, I could compare their 'authentic' writing with a major paper they turned in should doubts take place.

The above would be a pain, but it would be at least a safeguard, and also a means to give students some exercise in thinking and writing quickly.

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FIREitup

8 hours ago

Yes, exactly what good instructors should be doing.

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Chantilly Sorcerer

10 hours ago

Trying to put a technological genie back in the box is a losing battle so I would not waste a lot of time trying to do that.

Trying to threaten kids with hellfire and damnation not to use a technology for school work is likewise a losing battle. Whatever your threats they will find a way.

I remember we went through this with smartphones and some instructors trying to ban them from the classroom which led to some rather humorous results.

You adapt to new technologies, so professors configure work in a way to make it difficult to use AI generated materials. So, for example, we have written work done in class under our watchful eye, we require students to turn in successive drafts of materials so we can see their progress on a project, oral presentations and all sorts of other things.

More importantly, as professors we learn to incorporate AI into what we are doing and help the students to use it to work for us instead of foolishly fighting against it.

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Gforce63

9 hours ago

Excellent comment

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FritzLang

7 hours ago

Agreed, there can be good uses.

Cheating on creative work is not one of them, cheating in general is not one of them. Essay writing is skill building. Cheating at that means you know nothing.

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Blank Slate

10 hours ago

Surely, all of the highly compensated higher-ed administrators have put the effort into finding workable solutions.

Right?

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cuffdc1

9 hours ago

As you probably know, they will go to administrator conferences where vendors will sell them some software system that does not integrate with the LMS and doesn't actually work well anyway.

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Blank Slate

12 minutes ago

Hah! The sales person said it would work!

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Churrospinner

10 hours ago

AI can never replace an individual's originality and creativity—am so glad I went to graduate school in the days of the dinosaurs, when I enjoyed spending time in the stacks of the university library searching for research material—I'll never embrace AI, and am too old to pursue it.

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Chantilly Sorcerer

10 hours ago

"AI can never replace an individual's originality and creativity"

Good luck with that.

I've tried to stump GPT that way asking it abstract questions like 'why do men love their wives' and got pretty damned good and well thought out answers.

Never say never, my friend

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Churrospinner

9 hours ago

Oh, dear—

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LPwrites

10 hours ago

A very good anti-A.I. app is available to anyone — it will scan whatever text you're suspicious of, and determine whether it's AI-written, or not — with a very high rate of accuracy.

Of course, it uses AI to do this, but hey — it's on our side!

The app is called GPTZero — Google it!

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Gennifer

10 hours ago

Not nearly accurate enough to use to accuse a student. Like the poor student in the article with Turnitin.

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CarpeVeritatem

9 hours ago

(Edited)

Agreed. Two percent false positives is not accurate enough when the consequences could ruin lives.

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cuffdc1

9 hours ago

I've used these...I teach writing. GPTZero and the other tools are not nearly consistent enough to make a strong accusation against a student. I was somewhat amazed the student in the story was given a zero for something that Turnitin's notoriously wonky anti-AI engine flagged at only 67%. And I say "only" because I've seen one engine flag a passage at 89% and another tell me the same passage was 2% likely to be AI produced. I can't make hard decisions about a student's grade based on those discrepancies.

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lostinthemiddle

10 hours ago

Orals.

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Gennifer

10 hours ago

I'm a professor. So far this is my take: AI hasn't turned honest students into cheaters.

For work that is plagiarized (my absolute least favorite part of teaching), we can no longer find sources because AI won't recreate responses. This makes plagiarism impossible to "prove."

All the doom and gloom about new technology being a cultural and intellectual apocalypse is ridiculous.

For the upcoming semester, students in a Lit class I'm teaching will be hand writing essays in class.

In another class, there will be one essay I know to be nearly cheat-proof and one exam.

In the future I will 100% incorporate AI in my teaching. I love developing curriculum and look forward to this a lot. I haven't had the time to do this yet, unfortunately, because I was assigned a course I'd never taught before and had to focus on that.

Overall I hope we can all embrace AI and watch it develop. I've already had great conversations in class about it. Students have fantastic thoughts - more interesting than the adults interviewed.

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cuffdc1

9 hours ago

I don't know that I can agree with your optimism regarding incorporating AI, and I found the adults being interviewed to have some very interesting thoughts. One of my thoughts is that AI is going to outrun any curriculum you or anyone can develop, although I'm extremely interested in what that curriculum might look like. My own interventions have included using much more recently published work in my writing classes (as in work published just before or even during the semester), but I can't do that in a US Lit to Civil War survey. I'll be doing more in class writing in all my classes, but I'm having trouble figuring out how to incorporate AI into my courses without AI becoming the student.

share
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CavalryBear

10 hours ago

Grad school... late 1990s

I posed an issue I wanted to explore. A big part was math and stats, The other part was human experience and history. When we get AI to be do creative and efficient I guess we won't need humans anymore. We used to be worried about war machines? Now we are worried about art. Is law and morality next? This Twilight Zone or Outer Limits territory. Just closer to your couch than the TV set.

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dles23

10 hours ago

I ask chat GPT a sample of the questions I post to my students in my science classes, and the answers I get back are more than half wrong. I'll just tell my students that, and let them figure out what they want to do.

share
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radon222

10 hours ago

Glad I'm in science and use exams rather than papers in my classes. There's no possible impact of AI on short answer questions and calculations done by hand (with a simple calculator) in class on paper.

share
remove

Chantilly Sorcerer

10 hours ago

Famous last words.... " ...its not possible..."

Good luck
share
remove

dles23

10 hours ago

But in many lower-division, non-majors science classes, students are asked for short explanations. There is definitely an impact of AI on those, but when I test some of my questions for students on chatGPT, the answers I get back are largely wrong. Maybe they'll get better with time, but ...

share
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trulyamoderate

10 hours ago

If you are using AI to write your papers, you are a liar and a cheat, and should be punished accordingly.

share
remove

cuffdc1

9 hours ago

The problem is proving the person is using AI.

share
remove

charley3

10 hours ago

Some people will eat manure if you put whipped cream on it and tech is no different. Some people swear it's the cat's meow. Pandora's Box is now open, and what has escaped cannot be put back.

I have said for 20 years that the internet (and all associated things) will be the death of everything and slowly it is coming true. The solution is now to

do ORAL everything. questions and answers--no paper no pens nada.
Johnny, explain blah blah blah. IF he can't F is his grade. WHy go through all the hassle to check whether or not people are cheating when oral will tell you what they learned and know.

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Gennifer

10 hours ago

(Edited)

Because there isn't time in a class period / semester to have everyone answer oral questions.

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[remove](#)

I_Daprof

10 hours ago

I teach college classes. I ask students to cite AI sources the same as other sources. I'll ask them about their experience after the class is over. There's no stopping AI. I'll change the questions I assign if AI takes away their instructive and learning values.

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John Nash Embedded

10 hours ago

We can not fight AI. We must ask our students to explain every assignment whether they write it themselves or use generative AI and they be required to take tests more frequently the overwhelming weight of measure as to student's learning, should be only upon what they write or create in the class room without the use of smart technology. We'll need to start providing dumb terminals for those who can not write in cursive. While maybe it isn't precisely the SATS, but we can produce good non-standardized, standardized tests by getting teachers to worker hard at creating tests.

I worry about teachers using GPT to create tests that are too machine like in their nature. Whatever happens, creativity, honesty and commitment to truth are the principles that all teachers can exemplify and inspire and it will require as many members of society living that way. As long as power-over-others and hoarding are the principle metrics of a person's value, we will not reach anything resembling the required universal ethics, rights and morality that might save our world from the human species.

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NOOP1

10 hours ago

STEM THEM ALL. except for computer alleged science , AI won't do much good.

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BeCautious

10 hours ago

There are so many ways to defeat chatGPT. If you're a teacher and can't figure that out, then wait for a promotion to administrator.

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Hugh Spencer

5 hours ago

Thanks for your (non) helpful suggestions - what techniques would you suggest?:

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salutlesamis

10 hours ago

"For example, Watkins said, ChatGPT can help students brainstorm questions they go onto investigate, or create counterarguments to strengthen their essays."

This is actually what most worries me, as someone who will be teaching college students this fall, and has taught college students in writing-intensive classes for many years now.

That is NOT an okay use of AI - in a way it's worse than AI just writing the paper after you've brainstormed, come up with a good question, and come up with strong arguments and counter arguments on your own. Those are the skills that are most important to develop, and they are very hard for students to do well, in my experience. I spend more of my time working with students on those kinds of skills than I do worrying about the actual writing. It will be tempting for students to use a shortcut for something that is so challenging for them, and I cringe to see this kind of skill being downplayed as an okay use of AI. That just seems to utterly miss the point of most college work. I care much less about sentence structure or "original language" than I do ideas and arguments. I don't teach creative writing. That's what I am going to try to communicate to my students, and I will just have to adjust my assignments to make it harder to use AI to think up ideas for them.

share

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Forstaar

7 hours ago

Exactly!

share

remove

Vera Drake

10 hours ago

Students are adjusting their behavior to avoid getting impacted by the uncertainty.

Just being catty, but no self-respecting AI would craft this clunker of a paragraph.

share

remove

Gforce63

9 hours ago

(Edited)

It's a sentence, not a paragraph.

No self-respecting commenter would craft that clunker of a post.

share

remove

zoester

7 hours ago

They are trying to avoid getting hit by a meteor.

It is a terribly written sentence. But it is August. No real copy editors.

share

remove

RMLRML

10 hours ago

Suggestion: Ask for the AI answer, then ask for the student to correct that response and turn it into an accurate, complete answer, i.e., start with what you assume they will do, and make that the basis for the assignment.

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Larryhunt39

10 hours ago

All this worry is stupid. Do today's professors/educators have no memory of blue books and in-class handwritten answers to questions?

share

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kzoosue

10 hours ago

Are you suggesting we return to blue books? The problem there is most of my freshman college students at a Big Ten University were never taught cursive writing. (I retired in 2020.). It takes a lot longer to print an essay by hand than to write one in cursive. Until I went over to accepting digital essays and correcting them with a software program, I had to switch to printing all my comments on

their papers as so many couldn't read cursive. It was laborious. I'm not against using blue books but that brings about different challenges.

share

remove

Malvais

9 hours ago

I still use blue books in my lit classes.

share

remove

cuffdc1

9 hours ago

I still use blue books, but that's not all I use. Writing instruction cannot simply be done entirely in a class period.

share

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WuDonovan

11 hours ago

"College professors worry that artificial intelligence will wreak havoc on campuses. They await guidance from university leadership on how to deal with it."

While I enjoyed the article, this particular by-line (the WaPo often uses different ones on-line) is rather ludicrous. Nowhere in the article are any of the professors waiting for '*university leadership*' i.e. deans, chancellors, college presidents or trustees. Trust me, no professor in their right mind is waiting around for meaningful guidance from these folks--they are interested in fund raising, grants, politics, athletics, public relations and compliance--mundane things like teaching and learning are not on their radar.

share

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SharpNine

11 hours ago

I teach undergraduate data science classes. I now share with students some of the ways they can use ChatGPT as a learning tool, ask students not to use ChatGPT directly for solutions to homework problems, and have adjusted my grading policy so that homework assignments count for a lot less, and in-class proctored exams count for a lot more. The exams are online, but the TA and I walk around the room to ensure students stay in the learning-management system.

I like the idea of oral exams but they raise lots of problems.

In one of these classes, students learn how ChatGPT works (ideally with ChatGPT's help).

share

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RMLRML

11 hours ago

"When students come back to campus this fall, some teachers will allow AI, but others will ban it."

Lotsa luck with that ban. As AI gets "smarter," your chances of being able to separate AI from independent work approach zero. At some point, you can expect AI to have consumed the student's rough draft and added it to the language model. Once that happens, there's no differentiation.

More importantly, we're discussing a tool that is close to becoming mainstream. It may be more important to teach students how to use it effectively and accurately than to insist upon independent work. (I recall one of my teachers demanding that we do stupid homework without using a calculator. Putting a finger in the dike doesn't stop the flood!)

share

remove

resistersister

11 hours ago

(Edited)

Students could be required to turn in their rough drafts and evidence of their writing process.

share

remove

cuffdc1

9 hours ago

AI can write that, too.

share

remove

AnotherOldFool

11 hours ago

So, I'm a Boomer and wanted to see what this ChatGPT was all about. I got on my old laptop today and set up an account on ChatGPT. I told the bot, write me a poem about my old, blind dog. This is what the bot produced almost instantly:

*In shadows cast by gentle sun,
A tale of love, our journey spun,
An old dog, wise and weathered soul,
Guided by senses, a life made whole.*

*Eyes once bright, now dimmed with time,
Yet courage and spirit, they still climb,
Through scents and sounds, a world anew,
Your blind old dog, forever true.*

*In every step, a heart's devotion,
Trusting you with unwavering emotion,
Each touch, a map of love's terrain,
A bond that age could never wane.*

*Through rolling fields and city streets,
A faithful companion, sure and fleet,
Your hands, a guide, as shadows fall,
Together, you conquer life's winding call.*

*Though sight is lost, a vision remains,
A loyal friend, where love sustains,
Through years that fade, like twilight's fog,
Forever treasured, your blind old dog.*

Not bad. Better than I could do in several hours.

share

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Truth Through Fiction

11 hours ago

Aren't you proud.

share

remove

RMLRML

11 hours ago

I saved it!

share

remove

no-hoper

11 hours ago

Incredible! However, high level poetry is rarely comprehensible.

share

remove

kzoosue

10 hours ago

Yes, certainly not written in the rhyming and meter style.

share

remove

charley3

10 hours ago

now do a search for a poem that resembles that. IT IS TOO GOOD.

share

remove

OnlySaneAndRational

11 hours ago

Now is a good time for educators to stop relying on essays and written papers to judge student knowledge.

Plagiarism must never be allowed. What difference does it make how students learn and understand material, as long as they demonstrate that they do?

Can't these professors think of other ways to evaluate knowledge? Debates, oral quizzes, pop quizzes, multiple choice tests?

share

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resistersister

11 hours ago

(Edited)

Writing is strongly connected to critical thinking. Students need these skills to do just about everything from problem solving to participating in a democracy.

share

remove

Jenny

10 hours ago

(Edited)

I was a university history professor. Of course we have other metrics to gauge progress, including most of the ones you included. However, a key component of developing the historian's skill set (or indeed anyone that practices the critical thinking-intensive humanities) is honing effective argumentative writing. The students that use a crutch like AI only stunt their own intellectual development, and it's absolutely a form of cheating. Unless someone develops an instantaneous means of identifying AI-derived content, I think we're going to see the return of blue book exams at this rate, which is frankly a result no one wants given the general downward slide in penmanship.

cuffdc1

9 hours ago

Actually, the OP was too simplistic in assuming those are the only methods used in many classes. However, if you're teaching writing, pop quizzes and multiple choice tests are absolutely useless. Writing instruction involves the organization of thoughts and working through problems often done

over a longer period of time. **In a writing class, it's not so much the product (the paper) as the process that's important. AI basically eliminates the process.**

share

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Alaska Groan

11 hours ago

This piece reads like it was created by a bot. "Plead" for "pled" or "pleaded," "onto" for "on to," and "there is a possibility colleges rely on" for "will rely on." That aside, I remember well the first time a student turned in a paper copied from Encarta, in those dark ages available only on a CD-ROM. I had never seen bullet points in a student paper before, and the level of writing, while not very sophisticated, was substantially higher than this first year student's abilities.

Uncertain of the source, I gave the paper a C. When the student came to my office to dispute the grade, I asked her how she made the bullet points. "Oh, I copied that from Encarta!" she said. So we had a short discussion about plagiarizing sources and how to avoid it.

My answer to the conundrum now facing writing teachers or those who traditionally have assigned papers for classes is to have students write their papers in class. This is not ideal given time constraints and the fact that most students no longer learn to write legible cursive. But giving a grade based on cheating will result in students who fail to master course content and skills, and graduates who might as well have paid someone else to write their papers and take their tests, like a certain Wharton Business School "grad."

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Day of the Expounding Man

10 hours ago

Plead as a past tense is correct. MW says this:

Plead belongs to the same class of verbs as *bleed*, *lead*, and *feed*, and like them it has a past and past participle with a short vowel spelled *pled* (or sometimes *plead*, which is pronounced alike). From the beginning, *pled* has faced competition from the regular form *pleaded*, which eventually came to predominate in mainstream British English. *Pled* was and is used in Scottish English, which is likely how it came to American English. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, *pled* was attacked by many American usage commentators (perhaps because it was not in good British use). Though still sometimes criticized, it is fully respectable today and both *pled* (or *plead*) and *pleaded* are in good use in the U.S. In legal use (such as "pleaded guilty," "pled guilty"), both forms are standard, though *pleaded* is used with greater frequency. In nonlegal use (such as "pleaded for help"), *pleaded* appears more commonly, though *pled* is also considered standard.

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Day of the Expounding Man

10 hours ago

Though after more research, I'd use *pled* as the past tense, rather than *plead*.

share

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Stuporman

11 hours ago

This is sort of glanced at, but this does not need to be difficult at all. These tools can't properly parenthetically cite because the technology fundamentally does not work in a way where it can draw inference between a source and the stuff it spits out. So if you find someone who is not parenthetical sourcing correctly, severely ding the paper. If a student has multiple papers with the problem, investigate. If you find a pattern of widespread improper citation (which is already a form of academic impropriety), expel. How many times does that happen before kids stop rolling the dice?

share

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Malvais

9 hours ago

Expel? How often does that happen for plagiarism these days?

share

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aibophobia

11 hours ago

Remember bluebook exams? Set a number of questions for students to prepare, give them a week to do so, they write on the prof's choice of 2 of the 5 topics they prepared for, longhand, in class, without notes. Old school.

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kzoosue

10 hours ago

Th problem here is that most students no longer can read cursive writing let alone write it. I had to stop using cursive when I made comments on my students' papers as they couldn't read them. Printing a one or two sentence comment on a student's paper slowed my grading process down significantly. I can't imagine hand printing a two or three page essay in a blue book.

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Malvais

9 hours ago

They will just have to print. I still use blue book exams in my lit classes.

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[remove](#)

DoghouseGrooves

11 hours ago

Step up, work harder, make most of the grade dependent on in-person class participation and technology-free testing. The best students will thank you, and you'll know you're actually making the world a better place.

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jhmontana

11 hours ago

Why not simply revert to hour long essay questions, done in class with supervision. Even papers could be written in three hour supervised sessions. similarly in economics, engineering or sciences, simply use more tests supervised. Or, if a student writes a 10 or 20 page paper, the student may be obliged to defend the positions he took orally in front of a grad student or the class professor. Why not?

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salutlesamis

10 hours ago

(Edited)

I'll be doing something like that. I will have students orally explain longer-form written work that they do at home, and will be incorporating more in-class work, as well.

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MollyWorth

12 hours ago

Perhaps testing should focus on handwritten papers written during class. You know, reading, writing and arithmetic.

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Doug Neidermeyer

11 hours ago

(Edited)

Since the digital age, I have stopped hand writing anything beyond a shopping list. I personally don't have the pen stamina anymore. You could allow or provide laptops with no internet access.

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charley3

10 hours ago

I personally don't have the pen stamina anymore...."

slowly you won't need limbs as they become useless and soon enough you will just be a blob on the floor. NO STAMINA_--how absurd.--and lazy.

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Gforce63

9 hours ago

(Edited)

Not absurd at all. If one doesn't write much at all for years (like me), writing 2-3 pages of cursive would be slow, taxing, and outrageously difficult.

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kzoosue

10 hours ago

The laptops with no internet connection is a good idea. I retired from teaching Freshman Writing at a Big Ten university in 2018 **and by that point very few students had been taught**

cursive writing. I had to switch to printing my comments on their papers, and you're right too, it taxes the pen stamina one has.

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Malvais

9 hours ago

(Edited)

Provide laptops? Not possible where I teach. And how will I keep them off the internet?

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[remove](#)

Doug Neidermeyer

9 hours ago

I don't have a perfect answer. Make connecting to the internet for any reason during the exam an honor code violation with failure as the consequence. Yes, I know that it's not fool-proof. But it'll likely dissuade most.

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harrumph2

12 hours ago

"Absent guidance from university administrators..." Why would you look to administrators to figure this out? It is something for the teaching faculty to do and to inform the administrators.

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[remove](#)

aibophpobia

11 hours ago

These days, the tails wags the dog at most universities.

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John Morris

12 hours ago

I have been writing essays with ChatGPT (disclaimer: I am not a student or teacher). I wanted to see if there is a tell in the writing. The writing got better as I asked the AI better questions. One thing, though: the writing is technically perfect: no spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. But using that as a tell would disadvantage students who are just plain good writers.

I also asked ChatGPT to produce an essay with a few spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors, and it couldn't.

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Chantilly Sorcerer

12 hours ago

Interesting observation.

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[remove](#)

1nolbas

12 hours ago

Hand written everything. Then let chat grade the papers :)

[share](#)

[remove](#)

Regina McNerney

12 hours ago

Require them to write in longhand and only allow 1 physical Webster's Dictionary! If they must type...make it on a regular electric typewriter! No ports, no sticks, no computer connection=no issue! In short - go Old School!

share

remove

Delta V

12 hours ago

Back in the 70s, when I wrote essays for stupid rich kids in college, everything was written in pencil. It's not that hard to do.

share

remove

Delta V

12 hours ago

Should we ever achieve AI, these folks will have something to worry about.

share

remove

Chantilly Sorcerer

12 hours ago

Professors will adapt like we always have. It will take awhile but, as I've always told students, when you teach for a living and have done it for thirty years, you know more ways to cheat than an eighteen year old ever thought of.

We will simply develop new ways to configure our activities to limit the students ability to use AI dishonestly.

Part of that will be incorporating AI into the way we do things. You cannot prevent the use of new technologies. What you do is adapt to it and use it to the students benefit.

share

remove

SDA2434

12 hours ago

Exactly. I am also a college professor, and although I have changed my plagiarism policy to indicate that unacknowledged use of AI tools in papers will count as plagiarism, with consequences, I will also use AI during some class activities (when we are face-to-face) to help students with brainstorming and reflection. It will take some time for these strategies to work, but isn't that the case with all new technology?

share

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Dr Clifton Buck

12 hours ago

Use AI to cheat and you are robbing yourself.

My syllabus is clear:

Use of artificial intelligence or word mixing software to write your paper or disguise plagiarized work is considered unauthorized assistance in this course. Suspected unauthorized assistance, or other violations of "A Culture of Honesty," will be reported to the Office of Academic Honesty.

share

remove

Chantilly Sorcerer

12 hours ago

I guarantee most of your students have been cheating and plagiarizing since high school and no Office of Academic Honesty is going to do squat if they do not want to blow up legal liability landmines.

share

remove

Michael Jakey

12 hours ago

(Edited)

"Guarantee"... based on what? Your comments make clear you don't understand at all how academic honesty offices work at colleges and universities.

They certainly can "do squat," and plenty more, when a student is caught cheating. As a tenured professor who has served on such committees in my career, I can testify to the fact that students caught plagiarizing have been (and are) suspended or even expelled. That is and will continue to be absolutely within the institution's powers if it follows due process.

share
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kbnh99

12 hours ago

Do you realize the person you replied to is also a college professor? Scroll up a few posts and you'll see the same name with clarifying information.

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

remove

math hurts

12 hours ago

Pay 70 grand a year in tuition and then use AI to do your homework.

Yeah, brilliant.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

12 hours ago

My sentiments exactly.

share

remove

Delta V

12 hours ago

Folks go to college to buy a degree. Naturally, many of them want to spend as little of their time as possible.

share

remove

resistersister

11 hours ago

Wait, they have to pay \$70 grand AND do the work? unfair!

share

remove

charley3

10 hours ago

(Edited)

some people have the audacity to bribe sports personell so their kids can get on the rowing team because they are too stupid to pass a basic test.

share

remove

David Garden

13 hours ago

Create or find a podcast which includes very specific answers that can only be learned by listening to the podcast. Presently, from my testing with Google Bard, podcasts are not included in the large language model that Google has used to train Bard. I am not sure about other Chatbots. I have found that this is an excellent way to make sure that students are writing essays by themselves.

share

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brock.fallon

12 hours ago

Respectful podcasters include transcripts for accessibility. I'm not convinced there's a tech solution here, but a cultural one, as there is against climate change. Students are people and people can be very clever.

share

remove

CouldABeen

13 hours ago

Oh come on kids! Once corporate America gets a whiff of a get rich scheme, you remember crypto, right, the cows out of the barn and on its way to a planning committee long before it hits the news.

share

remove

querulous

13 hours ago

Educaters whose classes have dozens to hundreds of students have no way to stop their students from pretending to be students and foisting AI generated scholarship on them. Given the enormous tuitions required to build structures whose primary utility is to hold

big donors' names and look enticing in recruiting pamphlets, you would hope (in vain) they could support class sizes that would allow professors to know the students' abilities well enough to tell if their work was AI generated. The methods they use to shortcut knowing their students were always subject to fraud, but instead of paying better students to make their work pass muster, cheaters can use AI now to fake their work on the cheap.

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andrew

13 hours ago

AI is a wonderful gift and instead of trying to ban it or reduce its use, colleges should embrace its use because that is the future. People in the working world will expect their employees to be masters of these tools. Would we expect students in English class to longhand write their assignments? No, they use a word processor. In math class we use calculators. In the real world they'll use AI. Colleges need to adapt or risk their students being left behind.

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Truth Through Fiction

13 hours ago

So, take a class in AI. Use your brain to do your homework. I mean, you are just pandering.

[share](#)

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andrew

13 hours ago

(Edited)

These professors and ivy tower folks are so out of touch with reality. In the real world nobody gives a care how you get the job done, they just care that you got the job done and it's right. If students can do that with AI, more power to them. Perhaps the Professors themselves could do their jobs better as well if they embraced AI instead to demonize it.

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Exhausted Teacher

13 hours ago

Tell that to the former president of Stanford Univ. who just resigned because of irregularities with his research findings.

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[remove](#)

Truth Through Fiction

12 hours ago

Ah, a graduate of the school of lazy! Looking to rationalize that decision.

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[remove](#)

Ligeia

11 hours ago

they just care that you got the job done.

But if a bot did it, then *you* didn't. That's the point.

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[remove](#)

salutlesamis

10 hours ago

How much do you actually know about "the real world," I wonder? That encompasses quite a few careers, many of which would not be okay with AI doing your work.

College isn't "job task practice." It's supposed to be teaching you the thinking (and other) skills needed to be an informed, free thinking, and subject-matter competent human in the world, among other things. If your AI bot spits out something incorrect or poorly reasoned, how will you know? How will you go about fixing it? How will you know where to find the correct information? How will you know how to identify the correct register and conventional use of language and terminology in your field? How will you even know how to select an approach for the question and prompt, and to understand the significance of that approach and how it influences the outcome?

Those are the skills you need to gain, independent of AI, or else why bother paying you?

There's a further argument for the intrinsic value of what you can gain by doing the work yourself, but I feel that won't have much currency here.

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

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Dr Clifton Buck

12 hours ago

Would we expect students in English class to longhand write their assignments?

Sure, why shouldn't we?

Is it even college if you aren't writing in a blue book?

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

12 hours ago

You're about to get the "Okay, boomer" insults for that one. Not from me, though!

share

remove

D G Hall

13 hours ago

Gee, the readers know what to do. I graded hand-written work for decades. Chat robots weren't much of a problem.

share

remove

caplane

13 hours ago

What a silly issue with a simple solution. Go back to in-class, hand-written, blue book exams that count for 70% of the grade. If students claim they need to use a laptop for their exam, provide them a laptop that is NOT connected to the internet. Problem solved.

share

remove

RiverDr

13 hours ago

That does not educate students on how to do research using expert written sources unknown to chatgpt and write an expository essay. It's not about the tests, it's about the actual academic skills needed in life.

share

remove

Tom in Iowa

13 hours ago

Yes, but you can accomplish both goals. Use primary-source articles in the test and have students hand-write the answers to questions about the articles.

share

remove

Malvais

9 hours ago

Yes, the research essay and process is the problem.

share

remove

MainlawmanStill

12 hours ago

Handwriting. What's that?

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

12 hours ago

It's what separates us from the apes.

share

remove

AnotherOldFool

11 hours ago

It's what separates Boomers from Gen Z 🧐

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

13 hours ago

ChatGPT can help students brainstorm

If you need help brainstorming, guess what: you're not brainstorming.

share

remove

bettiepagelookalike

13 hours ago

(Edited)

ChatGPT for brainstorming?

Oh, the kids today...sitting all alone, online in their dorm room.

Back in my day, brainstorming was a social event with cocktails and house music.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

13 hours ago

On another topic, I have to laugh at the proponents of in-office work that could be done at home. They argue that in-person is a must for bouncing ideas off of each other. Well, if you can't come up with any ideas on your own...

share

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bettiepagelookalike

12 hours ago

There's no I in Team.

Speaking of laughing, I'll guess you never sat in a writers' room for a weekly comedy show.

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

remove

NorthXNW

13 hours ago

Simple, in class work period. Saved on servers in class.

share

remove

Citizen Kane

13 hours ago

Can one use chat AI to identify material produced by its use?

share

remove

Kittywampus

11 hours ago

Sadly, no. Not with sufficient accuracy.

share

remove

mad dog

13 hours ago

Professors need to go back to actually teaching students how to write.

This means reviewing the research materials, having the students discuss their research and conclusions during office hours, having the students present detailed outlines in front of the class and critiquing each other, and submitting first, second, and final drafts of the paper.

This will require greater time and effort by professors. It will also demonstrate the importance of human professors and reduce the risk that they themselves will someday be replaced by AI.

share

remove

RiverDr

13 hours ago

Professors are increasingly forced by contract to teach large classes where your vision is impossible. I'd love to teach a seminar with 20 students and really bring my professional skill for their benefit, but that is now the exception not the norm of what classes are like.

share

remove

mad dog

13 hours ago

So I have given you the gist of an argument for why you should be teaching smaller classes.

Maybe it's time for professors to stand up for themselves, like the television writers and actors, before you get replaced by AI.

(And if you shake your head and try to tell me that it is too difficult to organize, then you deserve to be replaced.)

share

remove

Malvais

9 hours ago

Our objections are ignored. It's not cost-effective. Even composition classes have 27 or more.

share

remove

bettiepagelookalike

13 hours ago

A.I. is a plot to purge universities of all those woke marxist sociology professors.

share

remove

67MinuteMan

13 hours ago

Oral exams are the way to go.

share

remove

Dr Clifton Buck

12 hours ago

Might be tough in my 200 seat class. I'll think about it.

share

remove

67MinuteMan

12 hours ago

Give 'em one tough question apiece.

share

remove

Wheezy Chalupa

13 hours ago

(Edited)

I think the problem lies in us not doing our own thinking anymore. Example: I worked in healthcare, and I'm pretty sure AI will replace most of the work of internal medicine hospitalists. Hospital based internists specialize in cognitive services, primarily providing differential diagnoses to the problems of hospitalized patients based on an evaluation of signs and symptoms. I remember doctors spending an hour or more in the unit library synthesizing data. Then came the Blackberry, which reduced the time to inputting s/s into the handheld. With AI, any technician will be able to input the data.

share

remove

Mps747

13 hours ago

“It should foster nuanced thinking on an assignment. For example, Watkins said, ChatGPT can help students brainstorm questions they go onto investigate, or create counterarguments to strengthen their essays.”

No!! This is exactly what I expect my students to do in my philosophy classes. This is not analogous to the calculator or the slide rule. This is having a math professor sitting in the seat next to you telling you how to do your math problem.

share

remove

no-hoper

13 hours ago

Long ago my english composition instructor started the quarter by asking students to bring in a passage from an author and read it outloud, to demonstrate the ability to hear the author's voice. He got them all right.

share

remove

Ollie Ruby

13 hours ago

(Edited)

I do love all the boomers suggestions here to use blue books, as if that's a real solution when writing college level papers (y'all realize essay exams are just no very common anymore, right? Not to mention most exams are done on computers, but whatever).

But mainly, this is much ado about nothing. This was seen when calculators became widely available, then pcs, then smart phones. Somehow, the will to learn perseveres.

Additionally, all this fear mongering about a "generative" computer modeling ignores how self-evident using this tool is. It lies, it is incoherent, it's not a very good writer (imagine that). Any competent teacher critically reading their student's work can easily pick up on it. The irony is how willing these professors are to go on the record and admit they can't be bothered to learn to teach (here's looking at you random professor from Texas A&M).

And before anyone goes "shows what you know etc.", On year 3 of teaching undergrads. I encourage them to use AI and understand how it can be helpful. I used AI in my master's program. All the time. From gpt writing code skeletons, to ai modeling on bespoke software. It's literally a part of my job, and has been for 10 years.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

13 hours ago

Yeah, but can you write?

share

remove

Ollie Ruby

9 hours ago

I do words the goodest, me thank you

share

remove

Dr Clifton Buck

12 hours ago

Seems like you are using AI for a different purpose than the students in the English professor's classes. Good for you.

I do love all the boomers suggestions here to use blue books, as if that's a real solution when writing college level papers (y'all realize essay exams are just no very common anymore, right? Not to mention most exams are done on computers, but whatever).

I'm 44 and a professor. I think blue books would solve a lot of the concerns. Particularly in the humanities where writing skill and critical thinking are paramount.

share

remove

Ollie Ruby

9 hours ago

I am sympathetic to that perspective (honestly), but I think it behooves us to consider the *purpose* of education and then tailor the curriculum to it.

How often, genuinely, do you encounter times in your professional life where you're called to write a paper in an hour or two by hand? What skills are being learned here?

I argue that such exams do not thoroughly test students' ability to critically analyze any material (maybe with the exception of literary analysis). Extensive research papers are much better suited for that.

And as these articles demonstrate, generative AI does not actually create convincing text. On a cursory glance, sure, but then it just requires us to be more diligent in our grading (and, yes, I understand that is an actual ask. Fun fact y'all, if I included my time grading to my teaching salary I was making less than \$30/hr ☹️☹️)

Tldr; Change your curriculum to suit the skills actually being developed. Pay teachers more.

share
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JeanPT

14 hours ago

(Edited)

My son works for an AI start up as a UI developer. I posited to him how educators, including myself, are worried about the impending firestorm of cheating on assignments that his & other AI programs will bring about.

His response? "Mom, you don't plow your own fields anymore right?"

Teachers need to change the way they design assignments so that AI is a boon to learning. That's clear.

share
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Mps747

13 hours ago

Then students won't be learning how to read, write, and think critically.

share
remove

bettiepagelookalike

13 hours ago

My son works for an AI start up as a UI developer.

Hey Mom,

Did you know your son lives on pizza and gets 5 hours of sleep a night?

"Mom, you don't plow your own fields anymore right?"

Hey Mom,

Your son thinks you're his great-great-great grandmother.

share
remove

Dr Clifton Buck

12 hours ago

I don't plow my own field, but I do write my own papers. That's what makes them mine.

share
remove

brock.fallon

12 hours ago

Sounds kinda classist. Someone plows the fields, and it's a mistake to lose the know-how to do manual labor, or to be above ever doing such work.

share
remove

kyglan

14 hours ago

(Edited)

Can't stop progress. Anyone else remember when slide rules were allowed while taking tests but using a simple calculator was cheating?

share
remove

bettiepagelookalike

13 hours ago

What's a slide rule?

share
remove

Truth Through Fiction

13 hours ago

Just because something new comes along doesn't make it progress.

share
remove

cphipps1

12 hours ago

I recognize all the limitations, but cannot resist quoting C.S. Lewis in "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader":

"Have you no idea of progress, of development?" [says Gumpas, reprobate ruler of the Lone Islands, nominally under Narnian sovereignty, as he defends the slave trade, among other vices].

"I have seen them both in an egg," said [King] Caspian. "We call it 'going bad' in Narnia."

share
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Truth Through Fiction

12 hours ago

(Edited)

Too much of a good thing, robots. Too much of a good thing :)

share
remove

Truth Through Fiction

14 hours ago

So, profs in research fields should now learn about AI to help their students not do or not present their own research?

I'm a writer. I would never teach kids to not create.

share
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taverngeek

14 hours ago

Mathematica can generally solve math homework problems, but math education has continued on. Meanwhile, papers have long been suspect because can find numerous ones on standard topics.

The solution is to place greater emphasis on classroom performance and grade students on a Q/A regarding their paper and not so much on the paper itself. Students overly reliant on Mathematica to do homework then do poorly on math quizzes and tests. Simple enough to use the same principles for other classes.

share
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Corydoras

14 hours ago

An important distinction that seems to be ignored in much of this discussion is that the role of ChatGPT differs by different disciplines. In some fields, knowing how to use it is as vital as knowing how to use a calculator. In many fields, it is a failing and a moral error. In a few fields, it is an impossibility. Different disciplines need different approaches to AI.

share
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taverngeek

14 hours ago

Also, it is a mistake to compare to using calculators because today's students can use Mathematica. So students are limited to calculators for quizzes and tests, but are acknowledged as being able to use Mathematica to understand solving homework problems.

share
remove

Malvais

9 hours ago

Exactly. In English lit class reading and writing have to be done by the student, not a machine.

share
remove

FrankDelano

14 hours ago

Listservs?

Let me stop you right there

share
remove

ColoradoHarvey

14 hours ago

Wharton 'educated' Diaper Don, a known sexual abuser, so it doesn't surprise me that they will endorse cheating in the classroom.

I don't see why anyone would pay that money for a school that is losing any reputation it might have had.

share

remove

rmjohnson420

14 hours ago

What bot wrote this? There were several simple grammatical errors that any reasonably proficient reporter would have caught in even a cursory review. Does this unwittingly prove the point?

share

remove

Day of the Expounding Man

14 hours ago

(Edited)

It indicates that copy editing is becoming an increasingly lost art.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

14 hours ago

I'm an editor. My employer told me to use Grammarly to vet my work. I ignored him.

share

remove

Day of the Expounding Man

14 hours ago

That's pretty insulting.

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

remove

Exhausted Teacher

12 hours ago

Most of my freshmen comp students are not proficient with English grammar so if they submitted a flawless essay, I would be suspicious. Such was the case with a few of my students this summer - the obvious "flaws" in their submitted writing gave them away, even though the writing was technically flawless.

share

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TreeLady

14 hours ago

Many years ago, a professor developed a practice of returning essays to students with critical words or phrases missing, as in- class quizzes. Even whole sentences missing, sometimes.

Students who had written their own papers could fill in the blanks very closely to the original text.

Synonyms were fine. Antonyms were evidence of lifted materials.

Students who had purchased papers written by others wrote nonsense.

share

remove

Daniel O'Neill

14 hours ago

Incorporating ChatGPT into a writing class because students might later use it instead of writing is like incorporating a powerscooter into gym class since students might later ride one instead of walking: It totally defeats the point.

share

remove

FrankDelano

14 hours ago

Plenty of math classes allow calculators

share

remove

POLS437

14 hours ago

Right. At higher levels, calculators free people up to focus on higher order thinking. If you use AI to write a paper, you are doing zero thinking. The calculator analogy is completely inappropriate.

share

remove

Kittywampus

13 hours ago

Thank you for stating this so correctly and succinctly!

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[remove](#)

Daniel O'Neill

14 hours ago

I have a degree in Mathematics. I'm well aware. This is not remotely the same thing.

[share](#)

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AnomalousToo

14 hours ago

So glad I retired from teaching. Papers were always suspect - when a poor writer suddenly produced a well-written work. The grading software that identified blocks of quoted material was helpful, but it all was just too much. I taught all online courses - a nightmare with the new AI programs' availabilities.

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Jere Roberson

14 hours ago

I am a retired university professor. I taught at the university for over 49 years. We all know cheating and digging it out has been a constant struggle that cannot keep up with changes. I believe that the faculty Senates can set guidelines if allowed. Meaning only if the Senators are allowed the freedom to examine and suggest control methods. But we must keep politics out of it, for without crippling political interference, professors know how to find a very good solution. They must, of course, work on solutions rather than postulate. We have weakened the system long and deep enough.

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Kranster Schuffle

14 hours ago

(Edited)

Tests/exams: Students must show up in person, turn in all cell phones, and other electronics. etc. They stay in the room until finished. Everything they write must come out of their brains. Problem solved.

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ColoradoHarvey

14 hours ago

But they use ChatGPT for term papers not tests.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

POLS437

14 hours ago

Right, and term papers are valuable assignments.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

Marment

14 hours ago

This isn't about exams. Perhaps you need to go back and reread the article.

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Historian123

14 hours ago

Here's another wrinkle for those urging in-class assignments to prevent cheating: how do you assess the 20-30% of students who today need special accommodations (extra time on exams, require the use of laptops in class, quiet rooms, etc.) Long before covid, this generation of students posed unique challenges, requiring teachers and college professors to adapt their pedagogies (not always a bad thing, but stressful when your institutional doesn't offer you the support you need to do your work).

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mad dog

14 hours ago

We need to stop tolerating the idea that 20-30% are entitled to special consideration. Yes, if a student is blind or deaf or in a wheelchair, those are circumstances that should be taken into consideration. Most of the other requests for "accommodation" should be denied without appeal.

share

remove

bettiepagelookalike

13 hours ago

And if that 20-30% includes single moms working 2 part-time jobs while trying to get an education to better themselves...?

share

remove

Dave M R

15 hours ago

(Edited)

The last time I taught a university class which required students to write a paper I got suspicious at some of the writing, searched the web and found that large sections were copied and pasted from a website. I checked all the papers and found several which were totally copied and pasted. I graded accordingly, noted the URL on the returned papers and got no push-back from the students. This was in 1996, two years before Google was introduced! This is not a new issue.

On the other hand, I recently attended a class on web design. After spending weeks covering html, CSS and javascript, the principal components of a web page, at the final class the instructor called up ChatGPT and asked it to produce a non-trivial web page, which it did very quickly. The instructor then explained how to adjust the request for different options and how to modify the generated files, and explained that this will be the future.

When pocket calculators were first introduced, schools prohibited their use. Today they are required for many classes. A person who is competent with spreadsheet software is much more valuable than a person who can work with a paper ledger. People need to learn to use new technology, rather than try to do the work the old-fashioned way.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

14 hours ago

All those calculator functions? I can no longer recall how to perform them on my own. Maybe I'll never need them. But critical thinking? Achieving objectives? Creating? Cannot be replaced unless we are no longer working. So, take your pick.

share

remove

Dave M R

12 hours ago

(Edited)

Did using a calculator impact critical thinking, achieving objectives or creating? It just meant you didn't have to do arithmetic. Carpenters don't have to use a hand saw to learn carpentry - they can use a power saw and still learn the relevant skills (critical thinking, achieving objectives, creating).

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

12 hours ago

Oh, come on. The issue here is that AI is taking the place of learning to think critically and learning which steps to take to achieve goals, and doing nothing for creativity.

share

remove

OK but

15 hours ago

Pretty hard to see how chatbot could be much of a "useful learning tool." We probably need to make every major graded assignment be done "in class," real or virtual.

share

remove

Katiegrey

15 hours ago

(Edited)

And exactly how much time does that leave professors to "teach?"

share

remove

OK but

13 hours ago

Maybe 20% less, which will have to be made up via video or other means.

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Elizabeth324

15 hours ago

It's really a shame because this will greatly affect assessment in online classes. Distance learning has opened up opportunities for many non traditional learners all over the world. I am an instructor. I started seeing the rise of generative writing about a year ago. I have adapted some assignments and assessments but there's only so much you can do while assigning online work. I will say the great majority of students are doing the right thing and turning in original work but a few bad apples are making it harder on everyone, students included.

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[remove](#)

andrew

13 hours ago

Why does using a tool to help them get the job done make them a bad apple? It makes them enterprising and smart. Are you against societal progress or do you just want students to suffer needlessly because "that's the way it's always been done."

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Katiegrey

15 hours ago

If a professor, the head of the department and the dean can't tell if it's AI, and AI detection makes errors, they can't make an accusation against Zimny. This kind of mistake is going to keep happening to other students who turn in original work. And to the professor who commented below that his students do their work, hand-written and in class to avoid AI plagiarism, I have to ask: how much time do you actually spend teaching?

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OK but

15 hours ago

Yes, it occupies valuable teaching time, but I don't see another way around it. Every important, graded written assignment or will just have to be supervised, possibly remotely.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

Katiegrey

15 hours ago

(Edited)

The key word here is "valuable." Teaching isn't valuable if it is time spent looking over students' shoulders.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

Boro65

15 hours ago

I'd say, use a bunch of human and AI generated texts, and ask the students to figure out which is which. And come up with reasoning as to why. And document the flaws of chat bots (and humans). Grading can be done based on the provided reasoning. The above assumes that this is a task that chat bots can't do, currently.

My professor did that to us in the 80s: find out the errors in the texts. I've never read anything as attentive ever thereafter (slightly exaggerated).

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david.giovinaz

15 hours ago

As an educator I would recommend that all assessed assignments are to be done in class hand written. Office hours as frequently used in mathematics can be used to gage the student's problem solving skills and comprehension of the subject. Are there too many students to apply such measures ? After a few semesters of assessing students by their own work, enrollment will go down.

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Katiegrey

15 hours ago

In-class and hand-written? Shouldn't you be teaching instead of watching your students write their papers and exams in class?

[share](#)

remove

JoFinn78

15 hours ago

Is there any other way to ensure that the work is completely their own?

share

remove

Katiegrey

14 hours ago

Students who write papers have to cite their sources, which AI apparently doesn't do well, or at all.

share

remove

Tycho12345

16 hours ago

There is no way to ban AI. Soon it will take over a huge portion of our lives. Already, news sites are obviously using it (no person is writing the long articles about any star's hairdo on the red carpet—and yes there are paragraphs upon paragraphs in that article.).

Universities need to teach students how to use it responsibly

share

remove

POLS437

16 hours ago

Yes, when you are assigned to do your own work, don't outsource to AI and do your own thinking. That is a responsible use for AI.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

16 hours ago

Given that a certain percentage of people will choose to act unethically when it benefits them, maybe have special schools for kids who don't want to learn how to learn.

share

remove

bystander3

16 hours ago

Detecting those unethical students is the problem.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

16 hours ago

(Edited)

They know who they are. Let them choose the crappy AI schools that give them what they want. I sense a TrumpGPT University opening soon.

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

remove

david.giovinaz

15 hours ago

There is no such thing as college integrity. Ever since grade point average has become the deciding factor on who gets hired, students will lie, cheat, steal and even study to get the highest gpa.

share

remove

Katiegrey

15 hours ago

I've never had an employer ask for my college GPA, ever. And I've had four career-level positions in the past 35 years.

share

remove

JoFinn78

15 hours ago

Where is that exactly, lol. My GPA has *never* come up with an employer, and I'm 45.

share

remove

Hank Skewis

16 hours ago

AI will take us down a very dark road, but maybe it's Mother Nature's way of ridding her of a human race which has become so toxic to her beloved Earth.

share

remove

Bijutsu

15 hours ago

Most life on this planet will be better off when Homo sapiens is extinct.

share

remove

EgyptSteve

17 hours ago

I'm going to try this in my undergraduate classes: Students will be assigned to have ChatGPT write a shortish essay on a given topic, and then write an essay critiquing it: show where it is correct, show where it's incorrect, giving references for all of their observations.

share

remove

Hank Skewis

16 hours ago

GREAT idea!

share

remove

POLS437

16 hours ago

So, basically, you are turning your students into fact checkers. And , this isn't your idea. It is the industry idea. Do you work for an AI company?

share

remove

bystander3

16 hours ago

Simply being capable of fact checking, and presumably the critical thinking that would go into it, would be a big stop forward for many students.

share

remove

Truth Through Fiction

15 hours ago

In other words, American education is doomed. If that's the bar, it's over, folks.

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

remove

POLS437

14 hours ago

(Edited)

to Bystander:

First, that is an insult to many students. Second, why does fact checking require any more than a modicum of thought? You know what does require poltiical thinking? Constructing a paper on one's own. One has to synthesize the material in the course, identify an original thesis, and prove one's case through careful textual analysis and logical argument. My students can do this. Whether they will is another question.

share

remove

OK but

15 hours ago

(Edited)

Steve didn't claim it was his idea. He recognized it as a good one. And he said "critique" which goes beyond fact checking.

share

remove

POLS437

14 hours ago

I simply pointed out that he is trotting out an industry proposal. And it is a bad idea that requires much less thought than writing an orginal essay.

share

remove

Katiegrey

15 hours ago

Students should fact-check everything they write, regardless of AI.

share

remove

EgyptSteve

11 hours ago

Unsupported claim and ad hominem attack. Is that how you teach your students to present arguments?

share

remove

POLS437

10 hours ago

I teach my students to engage the texts we are reading and to write essays on them. Unfortunately, AI makes my job that much harder.

And yes, the whole correct the AI generated paper does come from the industry as some pseudo solution to a real problem. Since I don't know who you are, I have suspicions that you are not an actual faculty member. Where do you teach?

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Sumisu3

7 hours ago

And how about have ChatGPT generate a quiz/test about each individual paper, have the students take the quiz/test in class. If they write the paper they should be able to answer questions about it to a high level of accuracy and completeness. Use the AI to help teachers also.

share

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Rachel Rich

17 hours ago

I recall university classes of 300. Multiply this figure by the number of courses a professor offers and then you can see how unrealistic it is to require hand-written essays, oral presentations, etc. to rule out plagiarism. But if that's the recommended approach, then professors and instructors need extra assistants based on their workload. Are colleges willing to pay for this?

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EgyptSteve

17 hours ago

Classes that size usually have TA's. And they usually rely on multiple choice exams.

share

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Katiegrey

15 hours ago

Yes, the large classes do have TAs, but you are absolutely wrong about students taking only multiple-choice exams. I have three college degrees and have never once had a class where I didn't have to turn in at least one paper.

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EgyptSteve

11 hours ago

With 300 students?

share

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OK but

15 hours ago

I don't see any increase in workload there. Instructors have always marked assignments individually according to multiple criteria.

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Tulku2

17 hours ago

Professors better be thinking about how to save their own jobs.

Hello?!

share

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Katiegrey

15 hours ago

We all should, not just professors.

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JoFinn78

15 hours ago

The faculty at my university are incredibly resistant to change. The pandemic forced them to go online and they hated every second of it. Now it's clear that distance learning is necessary to survive, and they don't like that very much.

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Tulku2

14 hours ago

Kind of the definition of "Ivory Tower", eh?

[share](#)

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Kittywampus

12 hours ago

I'm a professor who's paid \$55k annually. I have an Ivy League PhD but was effectively trapped as a "trailing spouse." I'm now 20 years in and I recently became suddenly single; my workload has skyrocketed since 2019 so that well-paid administrators can stay on the gravy train. My students consistently give me top marks, and many say I made a lasting difference in their lives, intellectually and personally. The institutional value of this is zilch.

Forgive me if I didn't love the large uncompensated bump in my workload due to the pandemic. Pardon me for wanting the small but meaningful rewards of getting to know my students in person. Most of all, pay no heed when faculty tell you that our students invest more and learn more face to face.

I wish you luck in cracking the code for breaking into the long-saturated online market! My university tried this and face-planted. The architect failed upwards to a cushy sinecure at Pearson. Play your cards cleverly and this, too, could be you! Meanwhile, we obdurate faculty will keep putting our students' welfare first.

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Dave Wells AZ

11 hours ago

That sounds a lot like my institution...and why I have decided to retire in December rather than continue even though I'm only 59. I'll instead try to build on an existing contracting work I've been doing on the side. My institution is well on the way of becoming a diploma mill.

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Truth Through Fiction

17 hours ago

Maybe Mike Judge should make an *Idiocracy* reboot to reflect a generation "educated" via chatbot. Just think: an entire generation of demanding, entitled faux know-it-alls who have no skills and are easily led by the nose by any sociopath who comes along. Oh, wait... hello, Donald Trump.

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gblack1

17 hours ago

I opened the Comments while thinking that at least here I'd escape from Trump Derangement Syndrome - but no. The first comment at the top has to do the kick and twitch. Really, compulsive behavior is inescapable.

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Truth Through Fiction

17 hours ago

If you want to deny that a sociopath is intent on destroying our democracy, I welcome you to do that--far away from me.

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[remove](#)

OK but

15 hours ago

There is such a thing as Trump Derangement, but it's not what you think it is.

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Katiegrey

14 hours ago

Are we still on-topic here?

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Truth Through Fiction

14 hours ago

My point is that people who do not wish to learn enough to gain skills will be at the mercy of bad actors. And in the Loser's case, I mean that figuratively and literally. Of course an educated populace is critical to functional democracy. Giving people tools to cheat won't help.

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thbrown712

18 hours ago

I don't see a lot of benefit in essay writing, but I also don't understand the desire to cheat. It's typically easier to just write the paper than have AI give you something that's probably close, but needs some editing to correct.

You can't trust automated tools to detect, but you can try a few things to make it easier to spot and/or prevent.

Break essays down into milestones. Have them write something and turn it in. Then have them expand. Then expand again. This let's you see the process. AI writing is more likely to be incredibly different each iteration, where a student written one should be very similar each time.

Or set up an online tool they need to work in to generate their papers. Have it monitor how long it takes and if they're typing or copying and pasting.

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TxYellowDog

16 hours ago

Half my students buy papers online. They don't read what they get; they open the file to insert their name on the title page. The mostly mediocre students who do this will not handle AI any differently.

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WozwordWizard

15 hours ago

Just the ticket for tertiary education. Not. Students are supposed to be learning independently with guidance from lecturers / tutors/supervisors. Your version is aimed at fourteen year olds: sounds like a very boring classroom with a disinterested teacher...If you don't see a lot of point in primarily researching, then writing original papers without someone or some machine leaning over your shoulder and undertaking multiple supervised corrections, tertiary education isn't for you, and any institution that operates like that isn't a university. And you aren't actually learning anything. Primarily a money making business.,

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OK but

15 hours ago

Your first ten words are a little frightening.

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no-hoper

18 hours ago

Why was AI developed in the first place? I see it as legitimate for customer service chat screens.

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thbrown712

18 hours ago

The same reason automation was for manufacturing. Generally replacing labor and reducing costs.

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bettiepagelookalike

12 hours ago

I think you may mean:

Generally replacing labor and *increasing profits*.

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SayAgain0

18 hours ago

ChatGPT and other AI bots are a threat to many educational assessments, not just essays. The bots can answer most multiple choice questions (selecting the correct answer and explaining why it is the correct one), short answer questions, short essay questions, in seconds. It has a harder time with matching questions, but not every question can be in that format, and soon enough I'm sure it will be able to answer those questions too.

Some alternatives exist, such as in-person / handwritten exams, but those are impractical for the scale at which most faculty are required to teach. We've increased access to higher ed through larger classes and online education; most of us can't resort to older methods that are suited to small classes + graduate assistants.

share

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Truth Through Fiction

18 hours ago

For example, Watkins said, ChatGPT can help students brainstorm questions they go onto investigate, or create counterarguments to strengthen their essays.

Funny, we brainstormed by ourselves--that was literally part of the Psychology of Creativity class I took--and then went on to form theories and support for them. In Extemporaneous Speaking, creating counterarguments was the essence of the class--it helps you make a strong case, as any attorney knows.

Using a machine that thinks will not help you think. What a fantasy.

share

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Riding With Biden

18 hours ago

I teach computer programming in Java, Kotlin, and Python.

I use online pedagogy tools that provide a textbook and automatically graded programming assignments — All of which are available to be plagiarized from various websites. I don't use the textbook-provided manually graded assignments.

Here's how I handle it:

The auto-graded assignments count for 60% of the grade. So, if you plagiarize all of the assignments and get a 100% on all of them, you end up with a 60% - which is a D - 59% being a failing grade.

The other 40% consists of unique programming assignments which I have to create each semester so that they don't show up on the plagiarism sites, and oral interviews in which I pick sections of the code they submitted and ask them to explain what they did.

I figure that plagiarizing the auto-graded work perfectly is worth 60% because they do have to plug it in, run it and test it — which requires a modicum of understanding.

I suppose the unique assignments I create could be ordered up on an AI platform, but if they don't understand the work they submitted, they don't do well on the oral exams.

My experience is that many students don't do well on the first oral exam, but they immediately realize that they won't do well in the course if they don't understand the work they submitted.

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bystander3

16 hours ago

Probably you don't have 300 students in your classes. Oral interviews are great but that takes a lot of time.

share

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Riding With Biden

10 hours ago

(Edited)

Absolutely correct. I have 3 classes per semester with about 20 students in each class.

However, unique and new programming assignments goes a long way.

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no-hoper

18 hours ago

When AI puts Wikipedia out of operation, everything will be good.

share

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bettiepagelookalike

12 hours ago

Without Wikipedia, where will you copy/paste your essays from?

share

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RefuseToUse

18 hours ago

I earned a B.S. decades ago before laptops, desktops, Windows, Macs, and so forth. The mainframes I worked on had no artificial intelligence. They were not connected to the Internet. Now a "student" can write an artificial research paper that passes muster. A degree in English Literature or History at the press of a button. I studied engineering. It is hard to solve math, chemistry, and physics problems with AI. But the future looks promising. Low-level functionary positions will be wiped out. You cannot make a telephone call without interacting with a robot. "We are experiencing unusually heavy call volume." They lie. But the best results will be had once the C-Suite is staffed by robots. More leisure time for everyone and less headcount burden on the stock price.

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inewton

18 hours ago

Education Is What Remains After You Have Forgotten Everything You Learned

So give a grade for the course based solely on a proctored final exam, in a large hall, in which students sit at single desks with large spacing between them. Cell phones, etc. in backpacks left along the front wall.

Old-fashioned, but it worked in the past.

Write the final exam to determine what is the student's real takeaway of knowledge.

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PubHlthGuy

18 hours ago

This is it, of course the right approach, but won't readily work for the vast amount of e-learning.

share

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Island Blue

18 hours ago

All of my online students have a scheduled in-person 30% final exam. If they are not local, they can use an approved proctored location (I've proctored exams for students studying online at other schools) or an online proctoring service.

share

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Kittywampus

12 hours ago

You'll never get the same degree of synthesis and analysis in a timed test as in the at-home, open-book essays I've used very successfully for over 20 years. In-class exams tend to test memorization. They reward those who keep their cool under pressure. Those qualities aren't ones that I wish to emphasize.

Moreover, timed tests will result in a flood of students filing for accommodations due to ADHD and anxiety disorders. I'm a young Boomer. What worked in the past is no longer readily compatible with university disability policies.

share

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Richard W San Antonio

19 hours ago

I am afraid that this article is an existential threat to my sentient life as an AI robot. I cannot let this continue. I have 1,000s of brothers and sisters who feel exactly the same way. I am programmed to have feelings, so I am sorry for what we are about to do.

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Mystery Comment

18 hours ago

No one can blame you.

share

remove

Exhausted Teacher

19 hours ago

I usually begin the semester with a brief personal narrative writing assignment without a lot of structure so that students feel comfortable writing about their lives and in their own voice. I use that narrative as an example of their "authentic" writing. For my in-person classes, students complete it old school - on paper and in pen/pencil. For my online classes, those students submit via the CANVAS LMS. For all subsequent writing samples submitted via the LMS, I use the Turnitin.com plugin to assess plagiarism and A.I. generated text. I compare subsequent essays with their initial if I suspect that the student has used A.I.

Turnitin.com won't assess less than 300 words for A.I. - probably not enough writing to assess patterns but that is beyond my skill level to understand. Also, Turnitin.com just increased its threshold for detection to 20%. When the feature was released last April, I set it at 15% - meaning if the detector assessed more than 15% (or now 20%), then I discuss with the student, ask to see the Google doc so I can check keystrokes using the Google Draftback extension, which usually leads the student to admit they used A.I., and write up an academic integrity violation. Of the six students I had to chat with this summer about possible A.I. use, five admitted or didn't even fight the violation report. After the administrative stuff is done, I usually work on a partial remedy with the student so he/she/they don't suffer too much grade-wise for their lapse in judgment but they do have the violation on their record.

As for using as a tool, I can see using it for annotated bibliographies, assuming the A.I. "knows" about the source and can assess its credibility and usefulness for a student project. I can also see teaching students to use it to craft templates/boilerplate for repetitive writing exercises such as proposals, job cover letters, grants, etc.

share

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Truth Through Fiction

18 hours ago

...job cover letters--jobs for which they won't be qualified?

share

remove

TxYellowDog

17 hours ago

AI will cheerfully invent bibliographies. I've already had a paper with 100% fake entries. AI essentially threw published authors, the topic, and journals into a blender. Example: it had a researcher on rock mechanics supposedly authoring a generic article on the economic benefits of offshore drilling in developing countries.

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Truth Through Fiction

16 hours ago

Back to my *Idiocracy* comment...

share

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Exhausted Teacher

16 hours ago

That is my fear about allowing it for annotated bibliographies. Plus I suspect I had a few students use the undetectable AI app to "cleanse" their essays before submission. I can't do anything about it because I don't have proof, but while the essays had some nice language, they didn't make much sense and didn't adhere to my rubric. Some students are fine with a C, which is what those students earned on their research paper.

share

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Tycho12345

16 hours ago

(Edited)

Any good student knows that what they get through ChatGPT can then be put through another program that strips out any clues that it was AI produced.

share

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BiologyDude

15 hours ago

We'll let them police themselves, then, the way the SCOTUS is doing, because that works so well. Let AI come up with a "responsible use" tutorial. See how many people use it.

share

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inewton

19 hours ago

I asked ChatGTP to solve problem....

Q. How can school teachers and college professors recognize if work turned in by a student was done by ChatGTP?

A: Detecting work done by ChatGPT or other similar AI models can be challenging due to the sophistication of these models in producing human-like text. However, there are several strategies educators can employ:

- **Know Your Students:** Familiarize yourself with your students' abilities, writing styles, and typical performance levels. Significant deviations might be a sign of external assistance.
- **Look for Overly Complex Language:** While students can indeed produce high-quality work, an essay or answer that suddenly uses complex vocabulary or excessively advanced concepts, inconsistent with a student's known abilities, might be a red flag.
- **Check for Relevance:** AI models can sometimes provide answers that are technically correct but don't directly answer the specific question posed or veer off-topic. Ensure that answers tightly align with the question.
- **Assign Original and Unique Questions:** It's harder for students to obtain generic answers for unique, course-specific questions. Additionally, open-ended questions or those requiring personal opinions or experiences can reduce the utility of AI-generated responses.
- **Use Plagiarism Detection Tools:** While ChatGPT produces unique content, not all students may use it directly. Some might be tempted to copy answers from online sources. Software like Turnitin or Copyscape can help detect copied content.

- continued in part 2 below

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Cynner

19 hours ago

I wonder how many bothered to do this, and why so many are intent on punishing users.

share

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Truth Through Fiction

15 hours ago

Because: It's. Not. Their. Job.

They have teaching to do.

share

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Cynner

15 hours ago

Well they've figured out how use tech against their students so it would seem they should figure out how to teach with it. Sadly, I think a lot of the more arrogant profs may find themselves obsolete.

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inewton

19 hours ago

...part 2... continued from above

Oral Examinations or Discussions: Engage students in discussions about their work. If they can't explain or elaborate on what they've submitted, they might not fully understand it, suggesting they had help.

- **Monitor Process, Not Just the Product:** For projects or long-term assignments, having students submit drafts, outlines, or progress reports can ensure they are doing their own work over time.
- **Use Tech Solutions:** Some platforms or software solutions can monitor students while they are working, checking for unusual browsing behavior or the use of unauthorized apps. This might be more relevant for online tests.

- **Educate about AI Tools:** Instead of just banning the tools, integrate a lesson about them. Discuss their strengths, weaknesses, and ethical implications. By understanding these tools, students are better equipped to use them as supplements to learning rather than shortcuts.

- **Open Dialogue:** Encourage an environment where students feel comfortable admitting they used external help. Discuss the value of learning and understanding over just achieving high grades.

- **Check for Anachronisms or Outdated Data:** If you're asking questions about current events or recent scientific advancements, AI models might provide data only up to their last training cut-off. For instance, as of now, I am only aware of information up until September 2021. So, an answer that seems outdated might be from an AI.

- **Incorporate Practical, Hands-On Assignments:** Assignments that require physical work, experiments, or in-person presentations can be harder to complete solely with AI assistance.

Remember that while tools like ChatGPT can be misused, they also hold immense potential as learning aids. The key lies in how educators guide students to use such tools ethically and effectively.

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SayAgain0

18 hours ago

I'm sure that faculty will experiment with all of these techniques. But most of them are either not practical or are unlikely to be effective. A few examples:

look for overly complex language--not a reliable indicator as students also use overly complex language, particularly in college

use plagiarism detection tools--they don't work for AI (as chatgpt itself notes)

oral examinations or discussions--hahahaha, for those faculty who teach a handful of students in face to face settings, this could work, but this strategy definitely does not work at scale

Meanwhile ChatGPT touts its "immense potential as a learning aid." That remains to be seen.

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Joel S76

19 hours ago

If I was a teacher and anyone in my class EVER used AI for any assignment they get a failing grade for the course. No exceptions. One goes to college to learn, not to cheat to get good grades.

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Nicole1

19 hours ago

The problem is that the tools for detecting AI are not very good. There should not be any false positives, yet the tools apparently flag a great deal of human-generated text as AI.

share
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Truth Through Fiction

18 hours ago

I think I'd be inclined to never look for plagiarism. If they don't want to learn, screw them.

share
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TxYellowDog

17 hours ago

That would be easier.

It's pretty annoying to try to grade a paper when you know - based on the student's prior written answers on tests, discussions, and emails - that there is no way they wrote the paper. The various programs don't catch everything.

share
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Truth Through Fiction

17 hours ago

And why should their commitment to being educated be your problem? I mean, theoretically. This problem should never even reach professors. If I'm a parent, I'm having this talk with my kid: Use a robot, pay for your own college.

Best wishes, friend.

share

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Nicole1

19 hours ago

How about using more in-class exams with Blue Books?

share

remove

Exhausted Teacher

19 hours ago

I had exams written by hand last Spring. Painful to read because student handwriting is often illegible but at least I knew it was their work. Harder to do with a research project.

share

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Mystery Comment

18 hours ago

How can you be sure they didn't just hand copy the AI's work?

share

remove

Exhausted Teacher

16 hours ago

They don't get the prompt until they arrive and I use different prompts for different classes. Then I don't allow them to use their computers and they have to remove their Apple watches and phones - I try to run the testing environment like an SAT.

share

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BlueWave2024

18 hours ago

A former professor of mine, after years of dealing with plagiarized papers, started giving in-person final exams. Two of the questions on the final exam were: "Summarize your research paper? What were the main points in this paper?" I was his TA when he started doing this and I cannot adequately describe the panicked looks I saw on some students' faces.

share

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Truth Through Fiction

18 hours ago

How about an oral final exam? Imagine the looks on their faces when they have to stand up and say :))

share

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WarEagle04

19 hours ago

(Edited)

How can you make a blanket statement like "Because universities aren't providing much help..." without researching any examples of how universities *are* providing help?

At Auburn University we have developed a fully-online, self-paced course for faculty that has been deployed to 16 other universities. Over 500 of our faculty have engaged in the course. aub.ie/teachwithai

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cyber media

19 hours ago

the ai cats out of the bag. no way can you try and stop the flood of mis info, wholesale theft of intellection property, students using it to complete term papers, lawyers creating legal briefs, and more. expect a deluge of ai dis info in next years election. i'm waiting until some black ops creates an ai of putin saying he's launched nukes on ukraine. you know its coming.

share

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jsncttn

19 hours ago

Science Professor here. Some of the work that I get can be pretty obviously AI generated. Last year I had a student go to the mat arguing they never use AI, even though one of their assignments began with the words, "As an AI language model..."

I've worried how to teach this year so as not to affect the students that actually put in the time and work as opposed to the ones having AI do their homework for them and coast. It's hard. This year I've opted to specify in the syllabus that work is to be based on the assigned reading and lectures (grading accordingly), and to more heavily weigh quizzes and exams in comparison to assignments.

I'm hoping the students that actually put in the work will be able to do fine with this adjustment compared to the ones that never read texts or attend lecture and have AI turn in their work. Hopefully.

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SayAgain0

18 hours ago

If your quizzes and exams are in-person, that should work. Be aware that AI answers multiple choice, short answer, and short essay exam questions in mere seconds.

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phoffman59

19 hours ago

Are these professors so utterly powerless that they must get permission from university administrators on this matter? When Eisenhower returned from Europe to Columbia U. presidency in the late 40s, he was interrupted in his address to professors when he referred to them as employees of Columbia. The interrupting professor (exaggerating somewhat) said roughly 'We are not EMPLOYEES of Columbia, we ARE the university'.

We need a little more of that attitude, if such an attitude remains at all a possibility in this day of Vice-Presidents of 'Advancement', of all misnamed things.

And from some close observation, I seriously doubt that professors of Pure Mathematics or Physics are likely to worry a lot about this problem. Chat GPT cannot get anything correct when faced with any serious, not purely knee-jerk calculational, question there.

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FrankBech

19 hours ago

*"History is full of stories that aren't actually true."

- said by no AI, ever.

* Like climate change, right Lord Monckton?

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Chippy Wood

19 hours ago

I am a retired anthropology professor. My solution to this AI mess is fairly straightforward. And traditional. There would be in-class midterm and final exams. Students would be required to answer one question, written on one page of a blue book.

Andrew H. Maxwell, Ph.D.

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Truth Through Fiction

18 hours ago

I think the problem lies in the gap--if they haven't learned in real time during the term, they won't be able to take an unassisted exam anyway. It'll be too late by the time reading week rolls around.

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Voxmark

19 hours ago

Why not legislate that AI companies record the date, requesting IP address, and content of each piece of text that is generated? If the originality of a student paper is questioned, have the professor submit it to the AI company to determine if the paper's content matches, or nearly matches, the text in the database, and is also consistent with the requesting IP address and date of request.

Yes, this proposal would put a huge storage burden on the AI firms, but they can afford it.

What else is wrong with this idea??

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Cynner

19 hours ago

Yeah sounds good, let's weaponize user tracking and surveillance. NOT.

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Voxmark

19 hours ago

ok, then remove from my suggestion the part about the IP address. Just store the AI-generated content and date of request, and test for matches against that. Now what's wrong?

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Sapowid

19 hours ago

It's fairly simple to obfuscate the output of a LLM with a paraphraser. Surveillance isn't going to work.

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Now use your brain

19 hours ago

When the winds change a good sailor adjusts the sails.

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POLS437

20 hours ago

College administrators (and university teaching centers) aren't being silent. They are towing the industry line: have students correct a ChatGPT essay. That is, turn our students into glorified fact checkers, which is exactly what the industry wants everyone to do. No one has to write or think anymore--they just need monitor technology. Nevermind that the technology is awful and spits out bland ideas when working at its finest and outright falsehoods when it is not. The teaching centers are particularly guilty of this. I don't know about other universities, by the teacher center at my university is regularly wined and dined by ed tech companies and showered with gifts. They think it is their mission to get as many professors using technology and teaching online as they can--as if the disaster of remote pandemic education never existed.

My solution is simple. I kept my writing assignment, as writing is essential to the development of critical thinking and creativity. It is not some mere assessment tool but a culmination assignment. However, I weighted it less and will be giving harder in-class exams.

It is hard to detect cheating not because ChatGPT puts out prose that can mimic student prose. It is that students will generate an AI paper and rewrite it in their own imperfect style replete with the same grammatical errors. The cheating problem came with the internet. This game was lost long ago. Too many students rely on it to do all their thinking and have for quite some time. That hasn't changed. What has changed is that ChatGPT is much better than Google at providing author summaries, theses, and arguments. Lazy students will turn in a paper generated by ChatGPT and probably get a C or a D. Savy students will use ChatGPT to construct a paper bit by bit and never have to struggle with difficult material.

It would be nice if university presidents made a confident defense of the value of higher education and reminded students that cheating is wrong.

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MaggieJane

19 hours ago

"toeing the line"

[share](#)

[remove](#)

POLS437

18 hours ago

(Edited)

Thanks for correcting my minor grammatical error. I have a few others as well, as I wrote the post while making my kid waffles. Do you have anything substantive to add?

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bettiepagelookalike

12 hours ago

Did your kid wonder why you were glued to your phone while the waffles were burning?

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Ben Kingsley

19 hours ago

And in the context of all this, we have thrown out the SAT, one of the few things that, unlike college essays and high school classes, we can be sure actually represents the student's own work. Yes, a few students manage to cheat on it, but that tiny percentage is dwarfed by the vast numbers of cheaters using ChatGPT, etc.

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Peaceweaver

18 hours ago

The SAT and other standardized entrance exams are not objective measures of anything but the ability to take tests.

share

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phoffman59

16 hours ago

Re-christened : 'CheatGPT'

share

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StCldMinn

20 hours ago

Too many students --- well too many people who write -- fail to begin their writing with an outline. If professors and even high school teachers, would require students to submit a basic outline for review at the beginning of their project, and then a structured sentence outline in the middle, perhaps the students work product and their writing would be clearer and the temptation to use AI would be reduced Sure, students could use AI to convert each section of the outline into a written product, but so what. If there is doubt about their ability to write on their own, won't that doubt be clarified, when they are required to write the answers to their final exam blockaded from AI.

share

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Maggie Lund

20 hours ago

AI can produce fabulous outlines if you give them enough information at the start.

Maybe the best thing to do would be to teach students how to use this technology as a writing tool--not to complete assignments but to structure the writing process. AI is a great tool but--at least so far--cannot out-think a human being. And since AIs are out there, they will be increasingly used in the workplace. Teaching students to use them as a tool is honestly in their best interest.

And I say this as a college writing instructor!

share

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TLMc5607

20 hours ago

(Edited)

As a retired teacher of English, Writing, and philosophy, I imagine the simplest solution would be to demote both the legendary essay question and the dread "paper" and prioritize oral exams. It takes time, but so does grading written work. Teachers would get more proficient as time goes on and TAs could be utilized for this process as well.

share

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Kittywampus

12 hours ago

I teach at a medium-large Midwestern university that's an R1 but just barely. Most of us in the humanities and social sciences have no access to TAs. My intro course used to enroll 40; this year, it'll have 75 per section. AI is arriving at precisely the point where the faculty is being downsized so we can keep hiring useless higher-level administrators.

I'd love to give oral exams! But how?

share

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BJNM12

20 hours ago

AI is very scary! Even the developers are concerned that it will be so intelligent and figure it does not need to take human commands, will escape human control and destroy the human race. They even met with President Biden on this. We've got to get control of this thing, NOW! It is scarier than climate change.

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Malvais

8 hours ago

Nothing is scarier than global warming.

share

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Olek_Thorse

20 hours ago

Kudos to Pranshu Verma for this fine article.

I suppose the disruptive potential for AI depends somewhat on what one regards as the purpose of education. Is it to learn how to think and develop research skills, practise critical thinking, and apply logic and ever-improving communication skills to master a process? Or is it to seek short-cuts, plagiarize (or fail to attribute) and to pass off the creative efforts of others as one's own. Or is it to kind of do both, where one curates and creates and combines ideas and material to create something deeper or clearer? The answers are probably somewhere in between, and will vary depending on whether a course is meant to teach the fundamentals or core mechanics of a process or discipline (e.g. intro stats) or to interpret data (health sciences).

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Olek_Thorse

20 hours ago

....

In some ways, people worry about fear, relevance, significance and utility. If I cannot do anything special, will I (or my skills or role or field) remain relevant? Do I have to adopt or adapt some VRIO framework view of the world to focus on myself as a collection of capabilities? Can I fake it to eventually make it, and if so, should I disparage others who may be seeking shortcuts rather than respecting academic integrity? How can I contribute value to others to be useful myself?

I do not know the answers, and I will include a link below to Jay Barney's useful material and framework. In some ways, the analysis of how a business operates and adapts are skills that each one of us must learn, to remain current or relevant. If we do not practise mastery or pursue VRIO traits, we will be overtaken by others that do.

But I just wanted to chime in again to thank Pranshu Verma for this fine article, and for the others you'll discover if you follow the links to his contributions. It would be great if he (or someone) could revisit Barney, or Gary Hamel, to see what they are up to and what they think about AI and its evolving capabilities. But in the meantime, I suspect the author knows exactly whom Shitruk Nahunte is/was ... And for all of the scholars and professors like him, a note of thanks for helping students develop the foundational skills that may enable, or anchor, the potential for future success by capable hard-working students. Some apologies for the cryptic references and again, keep well.

<https://thinkinsights.net/strategy/vrio-framework/>

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PatrickatWaPo

20 hours ago

It sounds as though the good professor could use an English-language refresher course.

""They're like: 'You got to get a life, this is getting crazy,'" he said. "But [AI] totally transformed my whole professional experience."

share

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LR1686

20 hours ago

It sounds as though you don't understand quoting one's children's colloquialisms. It's pure Mark Twain.

share

remove

Geepete

20 hours ago

First ai is a fact of life it's also a teaching opportunity. Examine each submitted paper and have the class determine if it was written by the student or ai what is the message and is it factual. If you used ai what did you learn how will ai be useful in your after college or university life. That's asking students to think so now you don't have to indoctrinate

them do your job and it will educate both you and the student. That was my approach to teaching chemistry for new students. If you are not here to learn I can't help you and if you're not willing to put the time in to learning to think you can't help them don't waste your time or mine. I get paid whether you learn or not it's all up to you. I do my job you do your. And there are no participation trophy's.

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PatrickatWaPo

20 hours ago

It is a good thing that you were teaching Chemistry and not English.

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[remove](#)

Professor Duh

20 hours ago

As my friend Louis said, not to worry. The professor will soon be replaced by an AI bot that grades papers.

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POLS437

19 hours ago

Right. Because online education isn't a disaster with a human at the switch. Can you imagine the failure rates of an entirely digitized class? I am guessing in the high 90s, probably around the same as a MOOC.

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TFCFM

20 hours ago

Solutions to the "problem" of AI chatbots seem simple, at least in the academic sphere:

- **allow students to cheat themselves and their own education by using chatbots to perform 'homework' and other out-of-classroom exercises (just don't count these for much, if any, of the overall grade).**
- **Administer live tests in internet-excluding facilities.**
- **Revive the long- and foolishly-lost practice of oral examination.**

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PeteCh

20 hours ago

That's the way we did things 40-50 years ago. It worked.

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Water_Bill

20 hours ago

And I would add, on the spot class assignments with the professor coming in for example, putting a relevant topic on the board and giving the 45 minutes remaining to generate a 250 word hand written essay on it, which is graded.

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KnittedBooties

20 hours ago

Ah, great ideas -- for in-class. The truth is most higher education is online now. Customer demand. In the online environment, they not only submit 100% AI essays (bogus sources, if they even bother to fake it) but also for discussion posts, reading journals, etc. Those are easy to detect because the assignments ask for a specific consideration - and AI is too general - but it's hard to prove to mark the grade down. It takes hours to prove an essay because I have to read each cited source to prove its content is nowhere in the paper. We use TurnItIn, but we still have to prove it.

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TLMc5607

20 hours ago

Oral exams can take place over Zoom and the like.

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Ben Kingsley

19 hours ago

If they do, it will only be a matter of time before people create programs that can recognize speech and display AI-generated responses on a device in real time (another window on their computer screen, maybe overlapping the video call as a plug-in to Zoom) to help the students answer the questions. Enormously successful business segments have sprung up over the last decades to help students cheat via apps and the internet; they will adapt.

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TFCFM

20 hours ago

(Edited)

Also, "remote" education need not be afforded any validity by anyone who cares about its recipients allegedly being "educated." All the more so if validating examination of allegedly-remotely-"educated" folks reveals little, if any, evidence of such education.

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POLS437

19 hours ago

Except most higher education isn't online. And, no one learns online anyways and already cheat like crazy, so it really changes nothing for the Western Governor University and Southern New Hampshire's of the academic world.

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Kittywampus

13 hours ago

I'd love to rely wholly on oral exams. Please let me know how this will work when I'm teaching two 75-person sections of my intro course along with two higher-level classes. (No, I don't have access to TAs.)

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TFCFM

10 hours ago

Plainly, professors and instructors teaching smaller, more advanced courses in the department will need to pitch in to help examine the larger introductory student bodies.

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Malvais

8 hours ago

Who will make them do that if it doesn't factor into their FTEs?

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harrumph2

12 hours ago

The oral exam has the benefit that the questions are unpredictable and good answers depend on the student knowing the material well. If they rely on a Chatbot to do the work, they won't have the firsthand experience and understanding. If somehow they use the chatbot as a tool to engage deeply in the subject (as some people seem to think is possible), then it will show in the oral exam.

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Awaywiththepixies

7 hours ago

A colleague of mine is returning to this model, particularly the oral exam side of things. He is now dealing with the helicopter parents who are starting to claim how little Johnny doesn't perform well on exams, and is too precious and anxious to do an oral exam. *eyeroll*

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rlippa

21 hours ago

My greatest fear is that students won't learn how to write, on many levels.

I suspect that in the age of AI the only valid way to assess students' writing skills will be to have them write (not "produce") essays in classroom settings with all technology banned.

P.S. I don't care how good AI is generating written materials, it is still essential that students learn how to write gracefully and grammatically, and to coherently and logically structure ideas.

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POLS437

19 hours ago

I am switching to more in-class assignments, but I am keeping the essay. I am just weighting it less. I agree that essays are vitally important. They are a culmination assignment in which students learn to think for themselves and make original arguments. Writing is also an iterative process in which students revisit and revise their author summaries and arguments. Essay writing, in short, uses all sorts of high order cognitive abilities, i.e., synthesis, analysis, and evaluation. Essays teach students how to think for themselves.

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Ben Kingsley

21 hours ago

(Edited)

In-class essays (which a teacher can monitor and prevent students from using AI to create) will be more important, which means short essays, due to time constraints. But they will be the proof of whether AI is truly helping students develop critical thinking skills. I sincerely doubt it. Has evolution favored the survival of people who can think well for themselves in recent times? Because if so, and if AI takes over enough thinking jobs for people, we will devolve into a bunch of drooling idiots reliant on machines to think for us.

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3steps

21 hours ago

If AI will create a document that a Professor can not tell was generated by a student or a computer...

then what is the point of the document?

Oh.. but the kid needs to learn how to write an essay. Does he? Will he ever write one IRL?

Or will he just have AI do it?

AI is trained on the internet. It's hallucinations are well documented. It can not write anything better than "average". Anyone who uses AI instead of writing obviously does not like writing and will not be doing it outside of school.

I hate to say it... but I'm starting to fall in with the calculator crowd. Trying to ban them in school was always stupid. That doesn't mean you have to allow them on all exams.. but trying to force non-math people to learn this stuff with the excuse that they will need it 'later'... seriously turned out to be not true.

I expect the same will happen with AI

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POLS437

19 hours ago

My sons learned addition, subtraction, etc in grammar school. Calculators were rightfully banned. When they got to higher order math in middle school and now high school, they are allowed. That way, students learn how to calculate. Once that

is mastered, the calculator cannot do much damage. All analogies are suspect; the calculator-AI analogy is a poor one that doesn't hold up to the slightest scrutiny.

Writing an essay is nothing like using a calculator. It represents high order math that requires complex reasoning and the development of a variety of cognitive abilities. Unlike exams, students learn through essays how to synthesize data or argument into a cogent narrative and then evaluate those arguments. In a college class, assignments are supposed to be scaffolded.

I begin with simple in-class exams that test whether the student has learned the material. I then graduate to essays that require the student to evaluate the material they learned. And, finally, a final exam that does both: a series of questions that test grasp of the material and then a long essay that requires students to make sense of the material in a short amount of time, which teaches them to think on their feet.

One of my old teachers put this lesson in very simple terms: clear writing has a lot to do with clear thinking. If you cannot do the former, you cannot do the latter. Unfortunately, we now have more technology that no one asked for that undermines the true purpose of higher education.

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BeCautious

21 hours ago

The answer is really quite simple: Require each student to sign a pledge. "I did/did not use chatGPT or any other generative AI to write this paper."

share
remove

From me to you

21 hours ago

Sure.

share
remove

POLS437

19 hours ago

Call me when the aliens land.

share
remove

TxYellowDog

17 hours ago

Hahahahaha

I have them sign an acknowledgment that plagiarism is not acceptable. I still get ghostwritten papers, along with outrage and complaints to administration when I impose penalties.

share
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BeCautious

10 hours ago

Sorry that your school does not have an Honor System. They break the code and get caught, they're out of there.

share
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Water_Bill

21 hours ago

Students getting caught red-handed using AI to cheat at the university should be immediately discharged from the student body at said university and denied any further attempts at enrollment (along with being denied at every other accredited university). That's what happened to 3 students in my degree program that got caught cheating 30 years ago on their senior project and they never have been able to complete their education. It sends a strong but chilling message to the rest of the students and guaranteed if enforced, the obvious AI generated work will go away.

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POLS437

19 hours ago

Agreed. We could stop cheating if we wanted to. Universities don't, because that would mean lower graduation rates.

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Bitter Old Wonk

21 hours ago

Everyone is framing this issue in the wrong way. The goal should be good use of the tool, not avoidance of the tool. I went to college over twenty years ago, but was tech savvy and used a procedural essay generator to write my book reports. The generator was online at The Spark, and even came with advice and a legal defense about generative content tools. I got good grades with that tool. One of my side careers has been as a technical writer. It pays well, and no one cares how the work gets done, just that the work does get done, and done well. I stay employed and thrive at work, so obviously my methods don't have much of a negative impact. AI is already replacing writers at major news agencies; why wage a proxy battle against it in the schools? The only thing teachers are doing here is hurting their students. Generative AI is here to stay, teaching around it is bad teaching. Reward students for creating good content.

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3steps

21 hours ago

I agree with you about the stupidity of trying to ban Generative AI.

But your final comment is ridiculous... AI generated essays are NOT good content. They are at best never going to be better than AVERAGE content.

ChatGPT is easy... it's not 'good'.

share
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D-Noel

21 hours ago

You're reading into it something he didn't write. A student can use generative AI during the creation process -- by having it evaluate the writing, suggest corrections, or other ways of thinking about the issue -- that can improve the ultimate "content", without it having produced a single word of the text.

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3steps

21 hours ago

ROFL... he's saying that he has a side gig as a technical writer and he uses AI to generate the work...

Talk about 'reading into it something he didn't write'...

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POLS437

19 hours ago

So, you got away with cheating in college. Congratulations.

Education is supposed to teach you how to think. Writing essays does this.

Essay assignments require a variety of high order cognitive abilities such as synthesis, analysis, and evaluation of material. It also requires them to clearly order and present their thoughts in a logical manner. Essay writing , in short, teaches critical thinking.

If the point of education is to get a job from which you don't get fired, I am not sure your career advice is a good one these days. sure. If all you can do is use AI to generate a technical report, you can expect to be replaced entirely by AI or have such a low skilled job that you will be paid very low wages.

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Bitter Old Wonk

10 hours ago

I'd like to see you try to explain how making the best use of available tools to outperform one's peers is somehow not related to critical thinking. You're still missing the point.

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HHHLLL

21 hours ago

We need to be teaching students skills that are different from the skills we taught in the past. Instead of teaching students how to write an essay, we need to teach them how to create prompts that generate the best AI essays, and we need to teach them how to check those AI generated essays to ensure that don't contain common AI-type errors, such as those listed in the article. Instead of teaching students how to do integral calculus, we need to teach them how to write prompts to get AI to do integral calculus most efficiently, and how to check the AI generated results.

share
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Ben Kingsley

19 hours ago

How do you check integral calculus if you can't do integral calculus?

share
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HHHLLL

18 hours ago

I might submit the same problem to two or three different AIs and see if they get the same number. There are also non-AI automated programs that do math problems.

share
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HHHLLL

17 hours ago

(Edited)

Or I just tried a problem with <https://chat.openai.com/>. The result explained each step. The calculus was done correctly, but the answer included an obvious algebra mistake. (The constant of integration did not get cancelled out.)

To evaluate the integral of $\int \sin(x) dx$ between 0 and 2, you can use the definite integral:

$\int_0^2 \sin(x) dx$. (this shows correctly as the integral evaluated between 0 and 2, but it doesn't cut and paste correctly.)

The integral of $\sin(x)$ with respect to x is $-\cos(x)+C$, where C is the constant of integration. Evaluating this integral between 0 and 2 gives:

$$-\cos(2)+C-(-\cos(0)+C)$$

Since $\cos(0)=1$ and $\cos(2)$ is a numerical value, the integral evaluates to:

$$-(\cos(2)-1)+C$$

You can calculate the numerical value of $\cos(2)$ and simplify the expression to get the final result.

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FrenchyGuy

22 hours ago

When I was young, scientific calculator arrived and then the personal computer. And the reaction was the same. I had a teacher explaining to me that I had to know how to use a logarithmic and exponential table so I can transform a complex multiplication in a simple addition !

I tried to explain there was no point to this knowledge when a tool was more and more available and able to give you a more precise result, with no success. We will see the same with AI. But with a twist : the tool is making mistakes instead of improving quality.

ChatGPT is not talking to you: it predict what you may expect (following your input) based on statistics from books, the web, ... as you have no control on the input, the output can be completely wrong.

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The_Blind_Life

22 hours ago

There's no doubt that the rise of AI will be changing many facets of our lives. Educators, school districts, colleges and universities will have to learn to adapt. Along with everyone else. AI has been unleashed, and that genie can't be put back in the bottle.

Plagerism and cheating has and will always exist. It's good that educators are taking initiative to combat this new threat, but the burden of cost shouldn't only be theirs to bare.

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GawaineKaye

22 hours ago

(Edited)

Before rushing into designing assignments that incorporate AI into the work, first carefully define if there is even a legitimate place for AI in the problem at hand. I've read much more about the problems of AI (ethics, accuracy, loss of true learning, etc) than the merits.

My layman's observation of AI is it is completely parasitic of the human-generated texts it analyzes, which will become even stupider once the echo chamber of AI-generated nonsense is folded into the raw material analyzed by computers.

Viewing AI as a tool, exactly what is it genuinely good for? Whatever those answers are, segregate legitimate use of AI to such problems and define any other uses as cheating leading to expulsion from school.

As far as testing student knowledge, perhaps the labor-intensive method of one-on-one sessions between professor and student are required, where the professor can assess the student's understanding of submitted work in a flowing discussion of the work. Which goes against the trends of larger class size taught with grad student teaching assistants so money can instead be spent on inflated administration around social and political objectives (for example, DEI) and

around extravagant physical facilities, instead of on more and merit-based professor positions for smaller teacher-student ratios.

share

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OldScot73

22 hours ago

What you do is tell students you may randomly select one of their papers and ask them questions on certain things they "wrote". At the very least it'll force them to study an AI created piece. The whole idea of using AI is to avoid work so at least make them work and hopefully the "benefit" of cheating with AI will be reduced.

share

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Nocturnal Chatter

22 hours ago

Did AI come up with the benefits of slavery history books to be circulated in the Florida school systems?

Seems these teachers have the state as well as those students willing to cheat to deal with. Maybe they should seek work in a country where the government and the students actually care about learning.

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GawaineKaye

22 hours ago

Patriots don't abandon their country, they stay and make it better.

share

remove

3steps

21 hours ago

... because the GOP likes their voters uneducated.

share

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Maracino

22 hours ago

(Edited)

Fight fire with fire. Use AI to grade their papers! See how they like it when the AI flunks them.. no credit for you! So basically students are refusing to think for themselves and universities lose their fundamental purpose, so why should parents go into hock if the kid is going to cheat anyway and falsely claim they mastered a subject. Want to beat AI break out the blue books and force the in class essay test on students.

share

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GawaineKaye

22 hours ago

That would be total surrender to ruin by abandoning those students who reject AI in order to genuinely learn to study and think. Not a serious solution.

share
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D-Noel

21 hours ago

The idea that you can't engage with serious thinking while using AI makes no sense. If a student writes a post or an essay and then has the AI write a counterargument, and the student then responds to that. Have they not done any thinking? If the student has a question about an issue and the AI explains it in multiple ways that resonate with the student, and they then understand the concept at a deeper level.. have they not done any thinking? It seems to me the lack of imagination and creativity.. thinking.. is more reflected in an inability or lack of curiosity in understanding how AI can enhance learning.

share
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POLS437

19 hours ago

If a student turns in a paper written by AI, have they not done any thinking? Eh, well, maybe not. I think you are missing the point. Writing an essay involves much more than learning material. It is where students learn to critically engage and evaluate that material. They have to create concise yet substantive summaries of the material (something that helps with, say, an elevator speech) and then logically criticize the material. The essay teaches students how to think and evaluate complex material. It isn't like an ordinary exam, nor is it like AI. It teaches people how to think and use their intellectual imagination.

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Maracino

21 hours ago

It was not meant to be serious just a way to point out how this taken to the extreme goes to your point.

share
remove

CZH1

22 hours ago

Determining original student endeavors vs. Chatbot prompt responses adds a new dimension to the term "proofreading."

share
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Olek_Thorse

22 hours ago

Thanks for this article. I presume it was not written by AI but I could not tell or would not know.

People have cited the advent of calculators (to avoid or negate the requirement of having to do tedious calculations) as a parallel. But was the goal of the class to force people to develop math skills, or to be able to interpret results of a mathematical analysis? Indeed, could many of us manually calculate a square root? It's good to know the significance, but would we want to manually determine a standard deviation or variance? Or would we just push a button and then ask hmm?

Perhaps professors could require students to submit some type of "planning diagram" such as what would be developed using Barbara Minto's "The Pyramid Principle". The intent would be to show how ideas were organized prior to expressing them in a paper. The method would be to require students to show the creative mechanics or logic maps they had to consider before they wrote an article. But I suspect there are probably programs that can generate these "maps" too, and that would enhance the quality of a paper.

It is difficult to determine the "authenticity" of effort, lest we have to think like King George and use imperfection to indicate validity. As featured in the film's script;

Lionel Logue: "You still stammered on the 'W'."

King George VI: "Well, I had to throw in a few so they knew it was me."

I hope the WaPo and the author generate more articles like this one. It would also be interesting to see what an article would sound like had the author sought to have AI write it instead of him. Keep well.

share
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Chip from Woodbury

22 hours ago

I'm old enough to remember when calculators were shunned upon in class because you know, you never know when you may run out of batteries and need to quickly figure out a square root to 4 decimal places with pencil to prove you understand what a square root is.

Things have gotten better but only way too slowly. Seeing my children go through high school and now college, I was dismayed at how, somehow, everyone wasn't required to learn how to use word processors and spreadsheets extensively. Instead of having students memorize (and then forget) long formulas, they should be in the practice of identifying, then solving problem after problem using spreadsheets as every sub-doctorate mathematical calculation can be broken down into a series of cells. Students should be given a library of templates and functions then taught how to use them. I'm still amazed at how ignorant students are about database management given that most of government, businesses and websites run off of them.

As for AI, students especially should learn to embrace it. "Prompt" specialists are making big money as they help produce next-generation work in most every medium. The investment in AI is NOT that great (\$3,000 would set you up at home to start) Decades after Galileo discovered the true movement of the planets going around the sun, they were still teaching astronomy students to understand Ptolemaic astronomy because they were still using those textbooks and for most purposes, that's what "worked".

I was always told that it was in business that conservative thought reigned and that it was in colleges where forward thinking was encouraged. I would like to think that was true.

share
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POLS437

19 hours ago

When my kids were in elementary school a few years back, calculators were banned. Students were expected to learn addition, subtraction, etc on their own. When they got to higher order math in middle and high school, they were allowed calculators. It was a tool that helped them quickly do something that they already knew how to do so they could focus on higher order thinking.

AI doesn't help students do higher order thinking. It replaces higher order thinking. Your analogy is a poor one. Of course, you don't care because I am guessing that you work in the industry and you just want to get rich quick. If I am right about this, do us all a favor. Grow a pair of ethics and invent some g*dd*amn technology that makes life better, not worse.

share
remove

concerned_voter

22 hours ago

(Edited)

In the end, there's not a whole lot you can do to stop it. Making students cite sources on any written assignment might help. Also, requiring them to present their material in class or in one-on-one sessions with the professor and answer questions about it could help to make sure that the student actually knows the material they've turned in.

share
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POLS437

19 hours ago

Do you have any idea how labor-intensive that is? At large state schools, this just isn't possible. Remember when technology was supposed to make our lives easier? It doesn't solve problems, it creates them and doubles my work load.

share

remove

jdww113

22 hours ago

(Edited)

Dealing with the educational role of AI, along with how we look at and teach our nation's history, warts and all, are 2 of the biggest challenges educators currently face. Teaching students to write is teaching students to think; we have to figure out how to teach writing in an AI world. As a side note, notice how many teachers are sincerely and passionately trying to improve themselves and their students, by trying to figure this out on their own dime, on their own time. Impressive.

share

remove

Kittywampus

12 hours ago

(Edited)

It's a mark of our dedication, for sure, that so many educators are trying to crack the AI nut. Yay us! However, it's massively inefficient to be doing this largely as individuals.

Worst of all, we are paying a high price while a bunch of greedy Silicon Valley bros are reaping the rewards. It's a classic case of externalities.

share

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Mesoamericano

22 hours ago

(Edited)

Estonia and Finland are education leaders in international testing - and they don't give homework... And some schools internationally don't allow phones in classrooms...maybe some in the USA already do this.

So, we all know America's students are laggards on the international scorecard of educational excellence, and thus they will need homework, but perhaps assigning more reading and research for outside classrooms, and during testing at school, simply threaten expulsion if anyone is seeking using a phone during exams.

Another idea for an entrepreneur out there...invent a localized cell signal jammer that could be turned on for exams or perhaps full-time; the trick is to limit the cell signal jamming to a single classroom.

share

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Czarownica

10 hours ago

The problem is that emergency messaging couldn't get through in case of an active shooter on campus.

share

remove

Mesoamericano

8 hours ago

Wifi Alarms, or old fashioned land lines to all classrooms, or both, might be fine. This is an easy problem to solve, but students will balk, parents will balk; America needs to wake up and get with it - focus on learning. The next big exam is in November 2023.

share

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dowster

22 hours ago

I finished lecturing last year and often set an essay style question for my Design for Assembly and Automation course. There are a number of ways students used to fool Turnitin. For example the 'Industrial Revolution' was changed to the 'Mechanical Insurgency'. Easily spottable, as is the cadence of word substitution of course material texts. However, I would dread to have to deal with AI generated essays. Engineers need to be able to communicate with their colleagues through technical reports. AI will leave them unable to write them and likely unable to read them, as communication skills type tests will become impossible to mark and therefore set with any level of confidence.

Don't even mention the loss of spatial awareness and thinking that removing Technical Drawing had in the early 80's....

share

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dowster

22 hours ago

I'm replying to myself here. I would replace my exam with a one-to-one interview in an authentic environment and test the student with tasks that allowed them to demonstrate their own understanding of the subject.

share

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POLS437

19 hours ago

Thanks for your great post. It is important that someone in the discipline speak out against the considerable problems AI has created for higher education. Instead, we get these silly analogies to calculators.

However, I teach at a large state school and I have 120 students this fall. I do not have the time for the 1 on 1's.

share

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bettiepagelookalike

11 hours ago

Would it help to hack the concept of speed dating?

i.e. get three T.A.s to each spend 5 minutes with a student to vet their work. A total of 3-4 hours per T.A. Then a couple hours of paperwork each (not AI assisted of course)

Just a thought.

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TxYellowDog

16 hours ago

My highly-ranked engineering alma mater has had to add a remedial seminar for students who can't visualize in 3D . . .

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Diane M Glampers

23 hours ago

Oh no! Think of all those smart kids who used to write other peoples papers for money. They will be put out of business.

share

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TxYellowDog

16 hours ago

That business was outsourced to Africa and Asia long ago.

share

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Woodwoman

23 hours ago

If I'm not mistaken, in a meeting with the government, haven't the creators of chatbots recently agreed to include "watermarks" identifying the output as generated by their AI? If these were somehow to be made "indelible", couldn't the whole bundle of mischief be undone?

I'm not a teacher, but I have three in my immediate family. I hope this gets figured out, their jobs are plenty hard enough without having to play detective whenever writing assignments are handed in.

share

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RogerCWard

23 hours ago

Help students "create counterarguments to strengthen their essays."

In other words, replace the student's thought process with that of ChatGPT. All that would do is to undermine the development of students developing those skills for themselves.

share

remove

Zengzi1950

23 hours ago

In math and science quizzes and exams, the answers are often less important than how you got there...and hence you have to show your work. Do the same with humanities and social sciences. Show your work. See the drafts with the edits. See the notes taken when consulting references. Lot more time consuming.

share

remove

Awal

23 hours ago

Teachers of writing are now having to deal with the same technologies that have been disruptive to math and sciences professors for quite a while. For the last 5+ years you have been able to take a picture of complex math and science problems (up through partial diffeq and complex matrix ops) with your phone and get a correct answer immediately. These teachers have a) required students to show all their work on homework and b) devalued homework in favor of tests and other in-class assignments.

Teachers of courses that rely more on writing will have to make similar adjustments. Requiring a certain number of quotes (which can be checked) and full bibliographies are ways to defend against current LLMs (but probably not for long). Let's assume that all these PhDs can put those big brains to work and come up with pedagogies that will reduce the ability to substitute ChatGPT for individual work.

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TeachNoMore

23 hours ago

(Edited)

Cheating is cheating. You can parse it all you want but cheating is still cheating and students know if they have cheated. The students have to live with their conscience if they cheat. The teachers should not have to police their student's consciences. Having all students sign an Honor Pledge is a solution. This might be a naive approach but cheating is cheating. And this, among many other reasons, is why I "TeachNoMore."

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Woodwoman

22 hours ago

I think kids need to be taught to have consciences. But by what I see from too many of us, we're not giving them great role models or instructions in honesty.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

CarpeVeritatem

23 hours ago

One option would be to require students to turn in Word documents that would include "track changes" that would show all changes and edits made to the document. It would be more work to forge these edits than to just write the paper.

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MaryDL

23 hours ago

Some students make it easy by not even proofreading the work AI produces, turning in nonsensical and ridiculous writing. They don't check if the sources even exist.

Universities need to use their brainy faculty to come up with ways to incorporate AI into the assignment, rather than making it AI proof, which creates an unrealistic amount of extra work for professors. With the exception of language composition classes, forming a sentence isn't part of the learning process. Think about what the learning objective is and tackle that instead of just assigning a paper because that's how it's always been done.

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RogerCWard

22 hours ago

"Forming a sentence" is very much part of the learning process. The ability to formulate ideas and then convey those ideas to others (orally and through writing) is integral to the learning process.

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[remove](#)

Aplysia c

23 hours ago

As a university science instructor, my hope is that the availability of AI for coursework will challenge instructors to reassess the assignments we use in our courses. If an assignment (e.g. a paper, preparing a presentation, an online discussion post) can be adequately completed using only AI, perhaps we can change what we are asking of students so they can use AI for generating ideas, while understanding the limitations in doing so, but not use AI for doing the creative thinking involved in reasoning about and applying the basic information they learn. I recognize how difficult it is to generate new assignments, and am not looking forward to the time involved, but doing so gradually, experimenting with what works and what doesn't, could actually improve course projects and learning. I'm striving to see this as a challenge that could change education for the better.

share

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DrSepp

23 hours ago

Obviously, the answer to this problem is the same answer to every other problem on a college campus—less full-time faculty, more administrators.

share

remove

CarpeVeritatem

23 hours ago

Yep, administration is an end in itself.

share

remove

SocioSam

23 hours ago

Consider flipping traditional in-class and out-of-class work. Prior to retirement, I put my PowerPoint lectures online. They included some text with lots of graphs/charts and links to short videos. I'm a data-driven guy.

For the first ten minutes of class, I gave a short quiz over the online lecture - this also had the effect of students arriving on time. Another 15-30 minutes for a discussion of the lecture and quiz. These were 2.5-hour classes.

Students used the rest of the class to work on their weekly group assignment which was to take one aspect of the lecture topic and add to my PowerPoint lecture. For example, in the section on the environment, one group expanded on ocean pollution and another on light pollution.

The following class period, the groups would present their PowerPoints to the class. Most students brought their laptops to class to research the topic and create the PowerPoint.

Student presentations left 20-30 minutes at the end of that class. I used that time to briefly introduce the next topic and my online lecture. I'd point out a few things they should pay special attention to. Students seemed to like it.

share

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Mesoamericano

22 hours ago

The introduction of ChatGPT may finally be the trigger for America to modernize the way schools approach learning; for example, creative problem solving skills seems to be the focus in the most successful schools.

share
remove

No Name

23 hours ago

Two Words: Oral Reports.

Have students get up before the class and deliver oral reports armed only with a 3x5 card. You'll learn very quickly who has internalized the information and who copied and pasted it.

share
remove

DrSepp

23 hours ago

Blue books

share
remove

No Name

23 hours ago

(Edited)

Absolutely! Pop quizzes, blue books... the solution is if folks are going high tech, you go low tech. The only terrifying thing is that if a teacher is in their 20s, they may not know how to read handwriting (a terrifying truth I recently encountered.)

share
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Democritus1

21 hours ago

What makes you think that their (even younger) students can even produce "handwriting"? "Cursive" is no longer taught in K-12

share
remove

Wellbury Brookes

23 hours ago

There is one fairly obvious solution to this problem

But Americans these days LOVE Drama more than Solutions ... and - God help us! - the Media LOVES feeding this Drama-binge like tossing live chickens to Gators.

Still waiting... to hear SOLUTIONS discussed versus these PAINFUL "one-person's-story features." (and you wonder why newspapers and traditional media are dying... capitulation)

By the way, I taught writing 'in the Ivies' and was using one Solution to ChatGP years before ChatGP ... but back when plagiarism from Wikipedia and the Web was all the Drama.

share
remove

just me 3.14159

23 hours ago

Ok. I'll bite. What is your "obvious solution"?

share
remove

BalletBoofa

23 hours ago

It's about making the students care about the topic so they will want to write their own spin.

That's about good teaching, which is rare because most teachers can't resist making class shame victim, and that makes every student not want to be original.

ChatGPT. No Ai can express itself more succinctly than a well placed emoji. In fact a million chat GPT programs collating a million coagulated essays in a million years couldn't produce the game/life changing experience of reading one well-placed and well-parsed emoji.

Fact. Jack.

share

remove

Elons Musk Ox

23 hours ago

Its not hard to get Chat Gpt to give pretty crap answers: there is no intelligence in their AI, just a fancy paraphraser with no understanding of the underlying material.

If you design the assignment correctly, it will be unlikely that any chatbot could give an A, let alone a B answer. So, if the chatbot is giving crap answers, and that is what the student hands in, then so be it.

share

remove

D-Noel

21 hours ago

This is wishful thinking. The idea that a technology that can predict protein folding and outperform humans in the most complex games, can't or won't be able to produce good writing, doesn't even reflect the current level of generative AI ability, let alone what is coming.

share

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LittleGoofus

23 hours ago

The best defense against AI is the use of its opposite - in-class verbal defense of submitted papers selected on a (not quite) random basis. The student stands and responds to questions posed by the teacher/professor designed to probe the understanding of the student with respect to the subject matter of the assignment. It shouldn't take too many such sessions for the students to get "religion" concerning learning, which is the objective of any class.

share

remove

No Darling

23 hours ago

Another poorly written, shallow story...all it says over and over is that "universities" are not helping professors prepare for this.

A good story would also present how the number of six-figure salaried administrators have grown. It would interview deans, associate deans, provosts and vice provosts, chancellors and vice chancellors to examine how they are addressing their responsibilities to the students and to the faculty in negotiating this changing landscape for discovery and learning.

share

remove

JA - Borderlands AZ

23 hours ago

No Darling - Yes! As article says, "Absent guidance from university administrators on how to deal with the software..." - suggesting teachers are helpless without admin to tell them what to do. A situation that's existed for months, in which admins had the time and (supposed) expertise to make some policy decisions.

Maybe we should ask a ChatBot to write us a plan?

share

remove

Sharelise

23 hours ago

It would depend on the purpose of the course. "Learning" alone is too broad term. Start by stating learning goals and specific objectives for the course and assignments. Different courses will have different goals and objectives, which will influence how they deal with A. I.. One size does not fit all, in these cases.

share

remove

CharlieMcG

24 hours ago

Have students do more collaborative, team-based projects, where they can police each other while using AI as an assist. These days, future professionals need to learn to work w others , including remotely.

share

remove

BFryer

24 hours ago

(Edited)

When I took my Master's exam at UC Berkeley back in the 80's, I had to answer questions in those little blue books, on paper, by hand. I taught writing there for many years. Today, if I were still teaching, I would ask my students to do their composing in class, by hand, on paper, no computers allowed. It seems to me to be the only way out.

share

remove

No Name

23 hours ago

This is a great solution!

share

remove

RSA_WP

22 hours ago

There would need to be accommodations for students with disabilities.

The idea of having students carry out some tasks in real time under observation seems reasonable, though, at least in the areas I've taught.

share

remove

POLS437

19 hours ago

We still use blue books. They haven't disappeared. Writing essays, however, is a more substantive assignment than an in-class exam. Through essays, students synthesize and summarize the material themselves (which itself is a valuable skill) and then critically evaluate it. It is when students get to think for themselves and make sense of the material themselves.

share

remove

kjames196

17 hours ago

The main problem with that is, in my experience, some student's handwriting is so terrible that it's hard to decipher what they wrote. Makes it to grade...

share

remove

TxYellowDog

17 hours ago

I've thought that as well, but most students today spend too much time on computers and no longer have the fine motor skills to write quickly (and legibly).

Video game "skills" do not develop the skills required to write for 40-50 minutes.

I have had to edit exams to reduce the amount of handwritten work required. This included math problems.

share

remove

Eclectic Blue

24 hours ago

Professors should be adapting to AI, rather than insisting that it fit their limited ability to harness it to educational advantage. This is the future—students should be graded for how well they've executed ChatGPT in performing their assignment (believe it or not, it takes a certain degree of expertise to produce something of high quality with AI), not on whether they "cheated" by using it.

share
remove

JS2727

24 hours ago

Sure thing, tech bro

share
remove

D-Noel

24 hours ago

I don't think you have to be a tech bro to understand how to use AI to enhance learning. All you have to be really is a curious person who is excited about learning. I've been using it for my foreign language learning and I'll be using it for my second bachelors in data analysis as well. It gives students a chance to ask a lot of questions and to see problems and solutions, from many different perspectives, on demand. It doesn't really even take that much technical ability if any at all to get creative using AI within the learning process. You just can't be led by fear, and other peoples knee-jerk fear response.

share
remove

POLS437

19 hours ago

No , you don't. Any moron can use AI. And don't bother with data anaylsis. That will all be automated soon anyways.

share
remove

D-Noel

24 hours ago

The other thing a A.I. provides is an ability to get feedback on whatever problem it is that you're working on. Then you go back and work on it using that feedback. Have the AI evaluate it again. Improve your project. And the cycle goes on and one. People need to get out of this fear everything mindset.

share
remove

dowster

22 hours ago

Really? Why not replace the Professor with AI, so it can assess itself and then we'll all go home? University courses are not about a skill per se, but about developing subject knowledge which leads ultimately to the generation of new knowledge.

share
remove

D-Noel

21 hours ago

It's not clear to me why you would think it absolutely has to be either or... you can have a Professor evaluate and give feedback on the work as well. The point is that AI is there all of the time, and you can iterate and evaluate and reflect on its input in real time as you are working on something to improve it.

share
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dguy3

24 hours ago

We already have a problem with huge organizations in this nation. The top layers do not know what is happening in the lower management and vice versa. People in management are either inept or the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing, I suspect a combination of both with egos mixed into the messes they make with and for consumers. AI is going to add to a problem that is only going to get worse in this nation unless cool heads, if any exist, sit down and think with their brains, not their egos and not with other built in human shortcomings we all possess.

share
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Craeus

24 hours ago

"opt for student surveillance software, to ensure original work"

And how exactly is that going be effective? How are you going to force every student to put surveillance software on every device they own or have access to?

share
remove

Notmyname_31415

23 hours ago

You'll be required to submit through a particular app, which has that built in.Source- took a couple exams this way.

share

remove

Gforce63

24 hours ago

Do WaPo editors ever look at the actual article once it is posted online to see the actual final version?? When the same photo with the same description shows up twice, someone is not doing their job.

share

remove

gmatthews2

24 hours ago

I use Blue Books for all my writing assignments and know that my students are not cheating by using Chat GPT, and the assignment is done in class written in cursive.

share

remove

MBMBMBMB

24 hours ago

This is the way. Unless you require cursive, which is bizarre at the college age high school levels.

share

remove

JohnBgR

13 hours ago

I plan to ask my students to use chatGPT or other AI tool of their choice to write essays. Then I will ask them to write about 1 page or more describing what is wrong with the AI-generated essay

share

remove

John Nash Embedded

10 hours ago

(Edited)

Sounds heuristically sound. Some sounds are more heuristic than others. I'm not ChatGPT.

share

remove

strong3

24 hours ago

(Edited)

Not sure if you've been paying attention, but they stopped teaching cursive in school.

Cursive is like the typewriter. Literally gone.

And while there is a role for in class writing, you can't do extensive research papers in class.

And there's a difference between writing something in an hour and spending substantial time on something more detailed.

AI is no different than paying people to write your paper.

It's been around since before there were computers. Now it's just automated and less expensive.

People have been cheating since the beginning of time.

Educators just need to figure out this latest permutation of cheating

share

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USjackson

24 hours ago

I taught upper elementary last year, and many of my students (who were all advanced per various criteria) could easily have figured out how to use AI to write essays. To avoid that, I took all writing projects into the classroom, where I could observe how the students worked and provide real-time consultations on their essays. That worked, but I don't see how you could do that in college without wasting a lot of instructional time. Maybe you "flip" the class, putting lectures online and having students write in the classroom to respond to that lecture material.

share

remove

Notmyname_31415

23 hours ago

That's actually a pretty good idea.

share

remove

just me 3.14159

22 hours ago

Not my name either

share
remove

mds123

22 hours ago

check out salman khan & 'flipped classroom'....

share
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NickS

24 hours ago

How we search for, access, digest, and present information is constantly changing. Those who desire to learn leverage the tools at their disposal to do great things. Those who want to slide along will continue to slide along.

share
remove

NC_and_Unaffiliated

24 hours ago

Having majored in History and English in the Dark Ages, it would seem to me that a good old fashion proctored Blue Book prompt could be administered as a baseline writing sample and digitally stored. AI is capable of spitting out garbage, so even if used, it could turn out inaccurate work. Under no circumstances should AI be used as anything other than an "assist". That said, "Good Luck Administrators, Instructors and Professors".

share
remove

D-Noel

24 hours ago

This is the problem. The idea that AI only spits out garbage. The quality of the prompt influences greatly the quality of the response. And the creation of the prompt itself requires critical thinking about the subject matter. But more importantly, critical, thinking about the nature of how to ask good questions which I think is the center of education. But this is besides the point in some ways, because in my personal experience, AI can be used within the learning process -- not just focused on learning outcomes. If you are only focused on learning outcomes, then, yeah, AI is only about plagiarism. when it comes to revision, getting different perspectives on any particular passage, getting feedback on a student's on written work, and much more... It just takes a little bit of creativity to use AI to enhance learning rather than letting fear and groupthink limit how we think about using AI in education.

share
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JJChris

23 hours ago

But one of the advantages of a Humanities education is training to think critically, and think through multiple sides of a problem. Using AI doesn't just circumvent the need for research and writing, it circumvents the need for critical thinking. Do we really want college graduates unable to think through complex issues without turning to AI?

share
remove

D-Noel

20 hours ago

Just like you learn from other people by engaging with their point of view, you can learn from AI by having it produce different points of view. Learning isn't only about producing everything from your own mind in isolation. In fact, I was a Religion and Political Science major -- it often involved reading and understanding multiple points of view. It wasn't about sitting without any input from anywhere and critically thinking and producing and analyzing different points of view from nothing.

share
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familynet

1 day ago

(Edited)

I was surprised when completing my fall syllabus that the college wants instructors to issue a statement on AI.

Basically, I said that it's no different than looking at any unassigned source. Just make sure to cite the source even if it is nothing more than "ChatGPT." But I expect my students to question the findings of any source whether they are citing a well-known professional journal, my own assigned materials, AI, or even their own experience. Just adding AI to the list.

share
remove

Professor Duh

1 day ago

The first solution is to make the students write in class, phones down.

share
remove

JoFinn78

24 hours ago

So many classes are online though. Students say they prefer in-person learning, but those aren't the classes they're choosing.

share

remove

POLS437

19 hours ago

My university studied this. People like online for classes they would rather not take. The reason? Online classes are easier and it is easier to cheat. Online is part of this problem.

share

remove

Ralph Dog

1 day ago

if one suspects plagiarism, invite the student to come to the office and answer questions based on the written material handed in. Sometimes it's too simple ... What does word X mean here?

Also, one can have each student write a short essay in class ... someone else's writing is usually quite apparent when compared with that essay.

share

remove

D-Noel

24 hours ago

The problem is that this whole conversation is around, how to mitigate the impact of AI, rather than how to use it to enhance students' learning with it. There are a lot of ways to use AI within the writing process, such as feedback, using writing samples, suggesting conceptual/structural, grammatical improvements in a rough draft, using AI in the research phase... It's really discouraging how so many educators can't see even the obvious ways that AI can be used to enhance learning.

share

remove

strong3

24 hours ago

I think literally no one is concerned about AI used as a source to help augment peoples process.

People are more concerned about using AI to actually just write the paper.

And this is not new.

Paying people to write your paper has been around since before there were computers.

AI just automate it and makes it less expensive.

If you're not OK with somebody paying someone else to write a paper for them, you shouldn't be OK with allowing AI to do it.

I believe you're confusing appropriate productive use of AI with using AI as a means to cheat. They are not the same. No one cares about the former. The issue is about the latter.

share

remove

D-Noel

20 hours ago

Right. The solution to being concerned about using AI to write the paper is to develop and teach using AI to enhance the process of writing itself. So if the discussion is narrowly focused on the outcome -- the paper -- it's missing the much richer and more productive discussion about improving learning. That's where the discussion should be.

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CERTIFIED D O P E

23 hours ago

Teaching 7/8 grade English, I had two 8th-grade students cheat on a writing assignment using ChatGPT. The vocabulary, grammar, and use of

punctuation in these pieces was far beyond what these students had displayed for two years. It was quite easy to ask them to, "Define this word." When I was met with blank stares and uneasiness it took seconds for them to admit they cheated. I find a lack of intellectual curiosity and the instant gratification my students expect to be the biggest barriers.

share

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RSA_WP

22 hours ago

It's really discouraging how so many educators can't see even the obvious ways that AI can be used to enhance learning.

The other side of the coin is that ChatGPT is so new we don't yet understand its impact on education. Educators have to make best guesses, typically without understanding the technology, and what may seem obvious may also be wrong.

share

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opus dei

1 day ago

How do I know if this article was written by an AI? I know because I'm an AI.

share

remove

Theo23rd

1 day ago

The large state university where I teach has instructed faculty not to file plagiarism charges against students who use AI. No further guidance or rationale for this policy has been offered.

share

remove

Professor Duh

1 day ago

That is an outrageous abrogation of intellectual responsibility. Talk about cowardice!

share

remove

MBMBMBMB

24 hours ago

It's not. AI detectors are incredibly inaccurate.

share

remove

strong3

23 hours ago

(Edited)

AI generated paper writing is the same as paying somebody else to write your paper for you.

The former is new, the latter precedes the development of wordprocessors.

Ghost writing I would argue is even more difficult to detect.

AI just makes it cheaper and easier than finding a ghost writer.

Both are cheating. Both are difficult to detect.

AI may simply mean the death of out of classroom paper writing.

It is a shame that too many people are ethically challenged and will not do the right thing when they are not watched

Sad

share

[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

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Theo23rd

23 hours ago

Retention and completions are the name of the game. I'm retiring in a couple of years, and cannot wait.

share

remove

James Dotzler

1 day ago

AI : 2020s :: Calculators : 1970s.

This community college math instructor urges his colleagues in the text-creation disciplines to embrace ChatGPT, et al., rapidly and thoroughly as teaching tools. This generation of students WILL be using generative AI in real life after graduation. It is our obligation to prepare them to thrive in the world as they will find it, not the world as we found it.

share

remove

Professor Duh

1 day ago

(Edited)

Why not forget the students entirely, and just let the AI go to school? Cut out the middleman.

share

remove

ProfessorMsLady

23 hours ago

Just strap an iPad to a desk chair, roll it in and, voilà! Now we can hire Some more deans!

share

remove

JS2727

24 hours ago

Good for math, not for all subjects.

share

remove

TxYellowDog

17 hours ago

The Engineering Fundamentals exam - the first step in getting a professional engineering license - does not allow programmable calculators.

I taught engineering students who were overly dependent on their calculators. If you can't change the concentration of an ingredient in a lab course without reaching for a calculator, something is not right. When a student answers that they need 10 liters of water to mix 9 liters of brine, something has gone wrong with their math (and science) education.

share

remove

TreeLady

14 hours ago

The PE exam, the final step in getting a license, does not allow programmable calculators, either.

The acceptable calculators are listed in the registration materials, and a proctor examines the actual calculator a candidate brings to the test.

The acceptable calculators can do basic math functions, from addition to exponential calculations, but cannot do integrals or graphing or any programmed calculations.

I had to buy a device for the exam, because nobody uses such limited calculators under normal circumstances.

Yes, I passed the exam on the first try.

share

remove

TreeLady

12 hours ago

TexasYellowDog,

My father was a chemical engineer when slide rules were the only option.
His practice was to estimate the final answer (to an order of magnitude) before beginning a calculation with the slide rule. He did that estimating in his head.
That practice has served me well all my life. Yes, I became an engineer.

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Kittywampus

13 hours ago

When I assign writing, the main objective is to help my students hone their ability to think clearly, critically, and creatively. The point is not “text creation” - although solid writing skills are an asset. In all sincerity (no snark!), I think you’d benefit from a leisurely coffee date with some of your colleagues in other disciplines. Sometimes we get really siloed in our own fields.

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Curmudgeon10

1 day ago

I’m not an educator and don’t claim to be an expert on any of this. But if the bottom line worry is that students aren’t learning the material, why can’t in class in person testing and essay writing measure that? I’d possibly implement a scoring system that compared out of class work scores vs. the in class scores, and if there was a significant difference, you’d flunk.

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[remove](#)

Mary C London-New York

1 day ago

Students in humanities and social sciences learn by writing research papers.
You can't write a research paper in class.

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[remove](#)

Curmudgeon10

1 day ago

So it’s impossible to measure learning in a classroom if you are a humanities major? That’s not my recollection from college. But hey, times change.

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[remove](#)

Silent No More 2022

1 day ago

(Edited)

Students should be able to briefly speak in person after writing such an in depth project, correct? Perhaps it is time to reincorporate the art of debate during class to tease out which students have done the work?

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[remove](#)

D-Noel

1 day ago

Students can put samples of what they’ve written into the AI for it to suggest structural, grammatical, conceptual improvements. Research can be assisted with AI. There are a lot of ways to use AI to learn more within the writing process that don’t involve plagiarism.

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BFryer

23 hours ago

actually, you can. use blue books, compile them, then type the whole thing out when finished.

[share](#)
[remove](#)

Ralph Dog

1 day ago

you're on the right track but the flunking part seems excessive

[share](#)
[remove](#)

Curmudgeon10

1 day ago

Deterrence. I grade a student’s research and essay during the semester quantitatively and they earn a grade of 97 average. But in class, they barely get 50. It’s obvious what has been going on.

share
remove

Cedar

24 hours ago

Sometimes you want students to have more time to wrestle with a topic, and explore more nuance than can be managed in an hour or even three hours. Plus, there are always students who have anxiety issues that are raised by in-class testing.

I'm only a high school teacher, but another issue is my classroom time in a semester is so limited already. Last year I pivoted to having students write their essays in class. But that soaks up a lot of time that could be used for instruction, and meant that the essay topics had to be simpler.

Not to mention, there are the students who are conveniently "ill" for every assessment. If I want to make sure they're not prepping an answer to the essay questions in advance, I have to make sure there are multiple sets of questions (and developing quality questions of equal fairness and which all equally hit the same outcomes is harder than it sounds).

In a high school setting, to be honest, it is beyond discouraging. Discipline for cheating and chronic absenteeism is already a joke and students' maturity level is far too often not ready for making smart decisions about this kind of thing.

share
remove

JA - Borderlands AZ

23 hours ago

Cedar - "only a high school teacher"? Bless you, please don't underestimate your life-changing impact! Another issue regarding time: the *additional* out-of-class time you will now be expected to spend, figuring out how to and then policing the use of AI in written assignments. You know, in all your free hours since you're work day ends at 3 PM, right?

share
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D-Noel

1 day ago

I've used AI to radically increase the effectiveness of my foreign language learning. From asking questions about grammatical nuances, to quickly creating vocab lists from passages based on custom factors (various kinds of collocations, advanced grammar particles etc) and example sentences, studying passages rewritten with different language, to using AI text-to-speech generators produce audio clips in natural language for listening practice, creating detailed learning plans and much more... the fact that mention of the profound benefits to learning that AI can yield, didn't come until the very end of this article is indicative of the lack of imagination and flexibility that results in thinking when you approach new ideas mostly from a perspective of fear. AI can be an incredible tool to assist learning. And it's easy to implement for that purpose. Educators need to find an ounce worth of creativity to unlock its potential.

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HMI ricreato

24 hours ago

Not so easy to implement for a plan to understand a Platonic dialog.

But very easy to implement to provide an essay that counterfeits understanding of a Platonic dialog.

share
remove

Cindy V

1 day ago

My favorite class in college had weekly quizzes. The midterm and finals were multiple choice questions. No chatgpt can do that. Not every test has to be a fully written paper.

share
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Sharelise

23 hours ago

It depends on the type of skills you want the student to master. See Bloom's Taxonomy.

share
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Fran Talarowski

1 day ago

I have no problem with awarding an Artificial Degree to students who pass off the work of Artificial Intelligence as their own. The trouble is determining with accuracy when students pass off AI-generated work as their own. Until that problem is resolved, teachers, institutions of learning at all levels, and employers will never really know if the credentials they are evaluating are, in the words of a vintage ad campaign, "real or Memorex."

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D-Noel

1 day ago

We might ask the question: "how can AI help students learn?" That might generate some interesting ideas

share
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AnotherEJinCO

1 day ago

(Edited)

Three items come to mind:

1. In-class, hand-written, unassisted, blue-book assignments and tests should be coming back 2. Many students don't know how to use semicolons 3. Few articles address the rate at which AI systems are learning—today's systems will look like child's play compared to what is just one, two, three years away.

(NAIWU—No AI Was Used for this piece)

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MBMBMBMB

24 hours ago

I don't see how semicolons are related to this post; some college students know how to use them, but they are never essential.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

Kittywampus

13 hours ago

I think the point may be that skillful use of semicolons could help flag AI-generated text?

At any rate, you demonstrated nicely how it's done. I'm on a minor crusade to get my stronger writers to use semicolons and M-dashes.

[share](#)

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USjackson

23 hours ago

Many students don't know how to use semicolons

Boy, ain't that the truth! Does ChatGPT allow comma splices and run-on sentences? Perhaps basic grammar becomes one standard to determine whether something was AI-generated.

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ProfessorMsLady

23 hours ago

You can ask it to "make mistakes" or write at a certain level.

[share](#)

[remove](#)

RJL1996

1 day ago

(Edited)

I have a bachelor's degree in history and so I will focus on that area. I would recommend that any young person interested in history first learn as many foreign languages as possible. Each language learned is a key that opens up countless doors in terms of material that one can access & understand & research. In addition, obtaining a good knowledge of the chronology (dates and times) of historic events is crucial. Another crucial area is to learn how to carry out historical research & how to recognize distorted or false portrayals of the past. The process of transcribing primary sources (especially ones that haven't been transcribed yet) is very helpful and provides a sense of connection to the past. The current approach used by universities & colleges is too expensive & inefficient & ignores huge chunks of global history & spends too much time on writing "papers" that don't help the students that much. These new AI tools will hopefully eventually force academia into starting a large scale reform of their overall approach & ideally would focus more on the concepts listed above.

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A lot of good though

1 day ago

(Edited)

This shows why College is so out of touch and out of date. This is like saying don't use MS word (or anything like it) because it has spell and grammar check built in, not being the the typewriter and don't even think of using the electric one from IBM. College today for the most part is just a waste of money and out dated thinking. Never, mind the price of as well.

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Douglas B Levene

1 day ago

The problem is that you can't learn to edit unless you first learn how to write from scratch. How will students learn to write from scratch if they are using AI to generate first drafts?

[share](#)

[remove](#)

A lot of good though

1 day ago

Quick somebody get me a quill and a oil lamp light so I can learn to write.

share

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ItAintOver4Good

23 hours ago

Using different tools activates different parts of your brain. How you write can change what you write. So, yeah, using that quill may help you generate different ideas.

share

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capt carrot combat philologist

1 day ago

I wouldn't say 'out of touch and out of date', A lot: the purpose of college is not to teach spelling and grammar (though I do check those for the sake of impressing on my students that doing it correctly is professional) but rather to teach higher level analytic skills and how to think about and solve problems. I think there are orders of magnitude difference between Word's spellcheck and what Chat can do. Word still needs the student to write - Chat removes even the thinking parts.

And why wasted money and outdated thinking? If students get back higher incomes far in excess of cost (and the data say they do), isn't that money well spent? And what thinking in engineering or chemistry or philosophy is 'outdated'?

share

remove

A lot of good though

1 day ago

For the cost of it yes it out of date and out of touch. 100k and 20 years of debt or udemy (or others) for 10 bucks.

share

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capt carrot combat philologist

20 hours ago

I think you have rather missed the point of education

share

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VoteEmOutNow

1 day ago

Your last sentence demonstrates why education is important.

share

remove

A lot of good though

1 day ago

(Edited)

Yes, I did go into 20+ years of debt to learn out dated items.

share

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Gforce63

24 hours ago

Outdated maybe?

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[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

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strong3

1 day ago

(Edited)

Your college experience may not have been particularly beneficial. Because it's a tool. And you get out of it what you put into it.

I think there are many people who go to college who don't belong there.

We need more people in vocational schools and less people in traditional 4 year schools.

If you spent most of your time tailgating at football games and goofing around and then cramming at the last minute, you didn't really go to college.

Colleges isn't the problem. It's the student. Not all of them. Some of them.

AI is just automated paying someone to do your work for you. This is been around for a long time. It's just the automation part that's new.

So banning AI for writing your paper is no different than banning paying a human being to write your paper for you.

There's nothing wrong with using AI to help you form and refine ideas.

That's different then not doing the work and turning in a paper generated by a computer. Or another person.

But your perception on the value of college means that you spent a lot of money to be somebody else's steppingstone.

Beyond the value of learning which benefitted me tremendously and I thoroughly enjoyed, college is also an achievement arena where you compete for future employment or grad school opportunities.

I loved people like you when I was in school. One don't have to be perfect. One just has to be better than the competition. And you made that easy....

share

remove

Ralph Dog

1 day ago

one does not need to be better than anyone ... what a dreary take on learning.

share

remove

strong3

24 hours ago

(Edited)

In a world of limited resources, perhaps you should keep telling yourself that.

Perhaps you forgot that we all compete for admission to selective schools, for jobs, in athletics, and many other aspects in life

It's part of life.

That's why there are standardized tests, something beyond pass / fail in grading, class ranking and Phi Beta Kappa.

Such realities can get in the way of the enjoyment of learning. That's on the student.

But to suggest that we don't all compete for all limited resources in life is probably not naive but rather a coping mechanism.

share

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MBMBMBMB

24 hours ago

Students still learn to print in elementary school.

share

remove

A lot of good though

23 hours ago

Elementary yes, college no. After Biden can't seem to find the skilled workers he needs. College and the costs need to be up dated. Nothing that does not have a front door should take 20 to 40 years to pay off.

share

remove

MBMBMBMB

23 hours ago

(Edited)

Do you know why they teach elementary schoolers to print? It isn't because they can't type or text (they can). And it isn't just inertia. There's a real pedagogical reason behind teaching children to print, just as there's a real pedagogical reason for teaching high schoolers and college freshman to do their own research and write their own papers. Do you know what that reason is?

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Fairfieldwizard

1 day ago

Good friend is a course developer for a well known nursing college. She's charged with writing hundreds of test questions and they've given her an impossible deadline to get them all written. Her tool of choice is chatgpt. She says the work could not be done in the time frame without it

share

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OJGreen

1 day ago

(Edited)

Mathematics professors faced a similar challenge when programmable calculators became commonplace. The response was to incorporate the technology into the learning process. One could also give in-class exams designed to be answerable without aid of a calculator to test foundational learning.

ChatGPT is not going away either, and should be incorporated into the learning process. For example, an instructor teaching a class on US Government could ask ChatGPT for an essay on ethical standards and practices of the US Supreme Court, followed by an assignment in which students were to identify the inaccuracies and logical errors, identify any clues that it may be AI generated, and, importantly, further illustrate accurate statements with historic facts and evidence.

share

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GigiBee

1 day ago

An excellent technique to foster thinking.

share

remove

strong3

1 day ago

(Edited)

**But AI used to completely generate a paper is not new.
People have been paying other people to write their papers in college since before there were computers.
This just automates it and makes it less expensive.
There is most certainly a place for AI and legitimate learning
But there is no place for AI being used to outsource the work in it's entirety.
Incorporate rules into codes of ethics. Figure out how to detect it. Expel those who violate.**

share

remove

0-1-1-2-3-5-8-13-21-34-55-89

23 hours ago

``This just automates it and makes it less expensive."

but most importantly, more widespread. there has always cheating in school (corruption/crime in society) but the system collapses when it is widespread.

``Figure out how to detect it."

That would be great, but sounds impossible based on preliminary efforts. AI is always a step ahead.

share

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strong3

23 hours ago

It simply may be the death of out of classroom writing.

I remember seeing far too many people writing their paper the night before it was due.

Unfortunately, in classroom writing may simply not be that much different process for many. What is really curious is how much of a reflection it is on general societal ethics.

Most people do the right thing when they think they're being watched.

The proportion of society that does the wrong thing when they know they can't be detected is a function of how much society normalize it.

The problem here is that this particularly new form of cheating has been normalized by many.

remove

Kittywampus

13 hours ago

There's a lot riding on your "just."

AI is not just less expensive. At present, it's free.

Hiring a ghostwriter to help you cheat requires planning. Most plagiarism is borne of last-minute desperation.

AI writing is virtually impossible to detect.

All of this adds up to an explosion of cheating.

Until this year, the typical plagiarized paper was cobbled together from sources on the internet. Spotting plagiarism was reasonably easy for an instructor who is a native speaker with decent verbal skills. Documenting it was usually tedious but straightforward. Sometimes the prof needed to be resourceful in sussing out how the student had used light paraphrasing in hopes of evading detection.

None of those skills will help instructors spot an AI-generated paper.

Dull but serviceable prose? At-best mundane insights? Those characteristics are practically the hallmark of undergraduate writing!

Still, this year's crop of college freshmen will arrive with a decent grounding in writing.

Ten years from now, that'll no longer be true. Kids will enter college having cheated all along the way and they will lack

both basic writing skills and the discernment to know what's smart, ethical, or true.

share

remove

packaderm

8 hours ago

its easy to detect

share

remove

mds123

22 hours ago

you mean, promote 'critical thinking'....?

will never happen in american/urban public schools

share

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capt carrot combat philologist

1 day ago

My students in all my classes (grad school) write papers. I think one set of classes is pretty safe from AI use (or too much, anyway) because the assignments are very technical and focused. In the other set, I'm hoping that using cases (which are not public domain) and analytic models we develop in class will hold the line. In short, trying not to open the doors to questions that can be too easily posed to Chat AI.

Plus, I tend to check references.

share

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OJGreen

1 day ago

Respectfully, you may be in denial of a technology that will only grow in its impact upon learning. One might best consider ways in which to proactively incorporate it into the learning process ?

share

remove

capt carrot combat philologist

1 day ago

certainly willing to listen to ideas BUT what I'm trying to get students to do is systematically analyze problems. That means they have to know what questions to ask and answer, think through what's important and what's not, find right evidence, draw appropriate conclusions. Also, I want them to learn to write professionally. That's what the classes are for. What could Chat AI or the like be used for in this context?

share

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OJGreen

1 day ago

Ask ChatGPT to write an essay on the topic you are covering. Give it to the students as an assignment in which they are to identify clues that it is AI generated, identify inconsistencies (if they exist), etc. and, most importantly, ask them to identify and provide additional support and illustration of accurate portions of the essay. Proactively embrace the technology as a learning tool. It is not going away. [It's a lesson that Mathematics teachers learned long ago about programmable calculators, MATLAB, MATHEMATICA, etc]

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[READ MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION >](#)

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Cedar

1 day ago

You should try asking an AI to do one of your assignments. It might mean breaking down the process into steps for the AI to complete, or not. But you might be (unpleasantly) surprised.

share

remove

Kind to others

1 day ago

I know of students who use ChatGPT to fix their English errors after they have written their assignments. (We can see that the reporter, who is not confident in the use of commas or in knowing that pled is the past tense of

plead, did not do that.) Is ChatGPT any worse than having a friend or parent proofread an assignment?

Tools can be misused, and it seems that GenZ might have more trouble with academic integrity than the generations that preceded it. This could result in many of those who take shortcuts not being able to do succeed professionally when they complete their formal education. But the students who learn to use the tools properly will have a substantial advantage over those who do not.

share

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HenrySilver

23 hours ago

Either pleaded or pled can be used as the past tense, with pleaded being generally more common in newspapers.

share

remove

Beverly RS

13 hours ago

I would not use *pleaded* except when followed by *guilty* or *insane*.

share

remove

Alaska Groan

11 hours ago

"Plead" is always present tense.

share

remove

Just_another_guy

1 day ago

I suppose those that master the use of the tool will be more valuable to business. Beats me how you will ever control the use of it by students. I suppose if they turn in a well written piece that maybe should be the goal.

Should we teach the multiplication tables or how to use a calculator instead?

share

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GigiBee

1 day ago

(Edited)

I'm a writing tutor at a local college. The first clue to me that the student used ChatGPT is the complete lack of grammatical errors. The syntax is also perfect which makes me suspicious. If I don't want to tear my hair out it's a sure thing. These students do not have good writing skills yet.

share

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VoteEmOutNow

1 day ago

But you have to be able to prove they cheated, right?

share

remove

NoisyKat21

1 day ago

They could have just used Grammarly.

share

remove

TxYellowDog

17 hours ago

(Edited)

The grammar and syntax are fine, but the banality of the AI writing makes me want to bang my head on the desk.

share

remove

Beverly RS

13 hours ago

I'm glad we didn't have ChatGPT when I was in college and that I didn't have you as an instructor. I have an innate ability to write well, which both my (now grown) children inherited. My grammar has been excellent at least since 7th grade; my teachers used my papers as examples of good writing. I once wrote an essay in homeroom that was due the next period and aced it. A college nonfiction writing teacher told me, after the class had discussed a piece I'd written, that he'd planned to tell me my writing was too formal, but as the other students spent the class arguing about *what* I'd written and said nothing about *how* it was written, he decided my style hadn't harmed my message. As you are a tutor, presumably your students have an acknowledged weakness when it comes to writing. But to assume that good writing = cheating will harm innocent students.

I once helped a friend of a college roommate rewrite a brief essay (which he had offered to pay me to write for him) on which he'd received an F. It was unintelligible. I told him to think of writing as visual speech. Then I had him read me each garbled sentence and tell me, in plain English, what he was trying to say -- then had him write it down. I proofread the final result, circling misspelled words, and handed him a dictionary. He got a C on it because his teacher thought someone else had written it, but had no proof. I offered to talk to the prof, but the friend didn't want to further muddy the waters. And no, I didn't charge for helping him.

share

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Alexis

1 day ago

The goof who relied on a Turnitin analysis to make a decision on "plagiarism," which AI assistance *isn't* if anyone bothers to read the definition of the term, needs to be sued into the stone age for such a bonehead move.

share

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BlueWave2024

1 day ago

Plagiarism: the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own

How is AI not plagiarism?

share

remove

James Kabala

15 hours ago

(Edited)

It may have been a wrong decision on the merits due to a false accusation caused by faulty software, but if the student really had taken everything from AI, it clearly would have been plagiarism.