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The Artificial Human Touch

A collection of works analyzing
our human connection with artifical
intelligence and how it will change our world

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Table of Contents

Foreword

We are living in a troubling time.

With the various problems facing us on national and global levels, from the COVID-19 pandemic to widescale group conflicts to economic distress, we are rapidly jumping from one problem to the next. Each of these has drastically changed the way we live, the way we function.

And right now, we're right in the middle of an AI revolution, an event that could change the way we work and live forever, and an event that won't be over any time soon. We can't yet say if this will be entirely good or bad, but already, we can see how it's changing our society. Only time can truly tell how far AI will go and how we will adapt to it.

Here, we have collected a number of creative written works from the students of Miami University of Ohio's Print And Digital Editing Class for the Fall of 2023 semester. In this book, you'll find opinion pieces, well-researched essays, how-to guides, creative fiction, and more. Each one offers a unique and interesting perspective, whether that be positive, negative, or somewhere in between. No matter where you stand on the issue, we hope we can help to both inform and entertain you, while giving you plenty to consider with the topic of AI.

Have fun and enjoy our dive into *The Artificial Human Touch*.

Real Human

Madelyn Bugai

Image from Pexels.com

As I stand naked in the mirror, the air steamy from my shower, I can't help but focus on the slit in my skin on the left side of my chest. The horizontal scar is no more than an inch long and a few millimeters thick, yet I can't help but focus on it. The outer layer of my body is symmetrical, all except for that raised scar. It should make me happy—the only imperfect part of me—but it doesn't evoke the same emotions as when I admire the crookedness of Ami's teeth, the silver streaks running prematurely through her hair.

It takes everything in me not to reopen it and pry out the chip. But removing that chip will kill me. No, not kill me, shut me down. I sigh out a breath I'm programmed to need, insert a colored contact into my mechanical eye, and wrap the towel back around my drying form.

She's dressing when I exit the bathroom, slipping off her amber

nightdress, and stepping into a long, flowing skirt that covers her hip dips and soft thighs. I wonder how my body would have developed if it weren't fixed to an androgynous build. I watch her pull on an emerald sweater before I clear my throat, signaling my presence. She turns and smiles at me, the skin around her eyes crinkling in a way mine never will.

"Nyx!" she exclaims, bouncing over to me. Her lips are upon mine before I can say a word.

"Ami," I mumble under my breath as she drags me to the bed. She motions for me to sit while she picks out an outfit to match hers. The corners of my lips turn up. Her insistence on matching outfits always amuses me. My lips drop down into a scowl at the thought that I might just be programmed to feel this way.

As she holds an ivory shirt up to my chest, my light eyes meet her dark ones. They're searching for something, and the intensity forces me to look away.

"You're wearing your contact," Ami states.

I nod.

Deciding she approves of the shirt, she takes it off the hanger. "I like the way your right eye looks," she says.

I unwrap myself from the towel and allow her to slide my arms through the shirt, her body brushing against the constructed curve of my meager breasts. "I don't," I answer much too late.

Her lips flatten into a displeased line as she buttons my shirt.

She hands me slacks in the same color as her sweater and I stumble into them. I look down at myself and feel quite handsome at how I'm dressed. For a moment I forget my sour mood.

We eat. Ami makes chai on the stove and the aroma fills the cramped kitchen. As she cooks, she tells me the story of how her grandmother taught her mother how to make it. And how her grandmother learned from her mother back in India before sentient AIs were developed. I chew my toast which is much too dry and resist asking Ami to stop talking. I can't help being jealous of her; I wish I had a family to learn from. A history to call my own. All I have is a creator: Viktor M. Romanov.

I blow on the tea she hands me, and she sits down across from me. The small table is pushed against the wall with the only window. The morning sun makes her rich skin almost glow. I know my skin doesn't do that. Instead, the artificial veins become more apparent, a mechanical labyrinth beneath my skin. I wonder what Ami sees in me.

"What's wrong?" she asks, sensing my mood. She reaches out and takes my hands in hers.

I shake my head. But she doesn't let up, squeezing my hands, encouraging me.

"Do you ever wish I was human?" I hear myself say.

"You are," Ami answers, her brows furrowed together.

"No, I mean, like a *real* human?" I correct.

“You are a real human, Nyx. I don’t care if you’re an SAI if that’s what you’re asking. You experience the same emotions as I do,” Ami explains.

“But I’m programmed to feel those emotions. What if they’re not real?”

Ami drops my hands and I look up from the swirling liquid. She looks angry, almost as angry as she was when she lost her father’s ring. “How could you say that, Nyx? Just because you’re programmed to have emotions doesn’t mean they’re not real.”

My cheeks heat up at her outburst. I feel frozen in my seat, unsure of what to say. I wrap my hands around the hot mug instead, focusing on how the heat creates a constant pressure of pins and needles against my hands. Ami huffs out breaths from her nose, looking out the window instead of at me. I tug at the end of my short dark hair, anxious as the seconds tick by.

Ami takes a long sip from her own tea and sets it down. She seems to have calmed a bit. She looks at me, then gives me a sad smile and puts her hands on mine, still clasped around the mug.

“My father was interested in human culture before SAIs,” she begins. The subject of her father has always been touchy, so I listen with rapt attention, holding onto each word she says. “He told me about a popular conspiracy theory—that humans are in a simulation. That we have no control over our own actions and some higher power uses us as pieces in a game.”

She rubs her thumb across my knuckles, her eyes focused on

our hands. I look at her face instead.

“I’ve often thought about it since he died. Asking these higher powers, or God, or I don’t know—the universe—why he had to die so early? Questioning if any of my feelings are my own, or if I was made to feel them. Not knowing if free will exists.”

I suddenly feel ashamed for asking Ami my initial question. She reads my expression and pulls my hands away from the mug, weaving her fingers through mine.

“So, no, Nyx, I don’t care if you’re a ‘real’ human. And I don’t think you should care either. Because it doesn’t matter. Even if you’re made to feel things, you weren’t made to feel things for me. You fell in love with me the same way I fell in love with you.”

“At first sight?” I ask, a smile playing on my lips.

She rolls her eyes and leans over the table to kiss me. I’m expecting it this time, and meet her halfway, allowing myself to get lost in the cardamom and cinnamon on her lips, the heat of her velvet tongue against my own. I have a thousand more questions to ask her, but I know they’re all moot. It will take a long time to accept myself, but as long as Ami is with me, I know I’ll be okay. Ami loves me, and I love her, and that is all I can ask for.

Artificial Intelligence: Defined and Explored

Elizabeth Martin

"I'm increasingly inclined to think that there should be some regulatory oversight [regarding artificial intelligence (AI)], maybe at the national and international level, just to make sure that we don't do something very foolish," explains Elon Musk. "I mean, with artificial intelligence, we're summoning the demon" (Marr, 2021). Musk's apprehension of unregulated AI provides a backdrop to a broader discussion of the field of AI. Therefore, this essay examines the birth and evolution of AI alongside the escalating risks posed by its rapid growth.

Understanding AI

Marvin Lee Minsky, computer scientist and co-founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AI laboratory, broadly defines AI as "the science of making machines do things that would require intelligence if done by men" (Dennis, 2019). Minskey's definition emphasizes the fundamental aspiration of AI: to bridge the gap between human cognition and machine functionality. Likewise, International Business Machines (IBM) defines AI in more detail:

> Artificial intelligence is a field, which combines computer science and robust datasets, to enable problem-solving. It also encompasses sub-fields of machine learning and deep learning…These disciplines are comprised of AI algorithms which seek to create expert systems which make predictions or classifications based on input data (IBM, 2023).

As IBM mentioned, there are two prominent subfields of AI: machine learning and deep learning. Simply put, machine learning systems learn from data, thus improving performance success over time. Deep learning systems comprehend complex and unstructured data, excelling in tasks involving large datasets and intricate patterns. Ultimately, AI harnesses data to make predictions, classifications, and decisions, which can be a valuable tool across industries.

AI's Birth and Progression

In 1950, British cryptanalyst Alan Turing explored the mathematical possibility of AI in his essay "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." Turing proposed the question, "Can machines think?" and suggested the potential for computers to simulate human intelligence by adjusting algorithms. Unfortunately, Turing's work stopped there—in 1950, computers could not store commands, only execute them.

Years later, Allen Newell, Cliff Shaw, and Herbert A. Simon verified Turing's inquiries with Logic Theorist, a computer program designed to prove mathematical theorems using heuristic search[1]. Logic Theorist demonstrated that a computer program can replicate human-like mathematical reasoning, ultimately making Logic Theorist a pioneer in AI history ("Logic Theorist," 2021).

For the next fifteen years, AI progressed exponentially; computing advanced tenfold, resulting in faster processing speed and storage capacity. This allowed for more complex computations, a critical component of AI pattern recognition and decision-making. Computers also became increasingly

affordable and accessible, thus democratizing AI research and prompting AI innovations. Machine learning progressed as researchers developed intricate algorithms, such as neural networks and decision trees, enabling AI to learn and adapt effectively.[2]

In 1970, Marvin Minsky announced that in “three to eight years, we will have a machine with the general intelligence of an average human being” (Anyoha, 2017). However, despite AI’s booming success years prior, scholars’ high expectations exceeded AI's technological capabilities; computers simply could not process and store enough information. Ultimately, AI’s stagnant growth led to reduced research and government funding.

Nevertheless, ten years later, AI resurged due to progress in computer science research and Moore’s Law, which, according to Investopedia, “implies that computers, machines that run on computers, and computing power all become smaller, faster, and cheaper with time, as transistors on integrated circuits become more efficient” (Tardi, 2021).[3] In short, scholars can expect the speed and capability of computers to increase as time progresses. Furthermore, pivotal researchers like Yann LeCun and Jürgen Schmidhuber developed advanced algorithms such as deep learning, which prompted continued AI advancements in the 2000s.[4] MathWorks describes deep learning as “a machine learning technique that teaches computers to do what comes naturally to humans: learn by example” (“Deep Learning,” 2019). Deep learning systems emerged as a dominant paradigm in AI and have since had breakthroughs in pattern recognition, natural language processing, and enhanced user advancement.

Future Implications

AI is disseminated into various fields: healthcare, education, cybersecurity, entertainment, and more. While Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) applications like spell checker and weather forecasting make life easier, there are dangerous implications for Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) implementation.[5] Elon Musk, entrepreneur and visionary, writes on Edge.org, "The pace of progress in artificial intelligence (I'm not referring to narrow AI) is incredibly fast.[6] Unless you have direct exposure to groups like Deepmind, you have no idea how fast—it is growing at a pace close to exponential.[7] The risk of something seriously dangerous happening is in the five-year time frame. 10 years at most." (Marr, 2021). Musk raises a fair point—AGI has the potential for quick, widespread impact, as AGI makes decisions and takes action without direct human control. For instance, the da Vinci Surgical System assists doctors in surgical specialties, including urology, gynecology, cardiothoracic surgery, and general surgery ("Robotic Surgical Systems," 2019). While this masquerades as an AGI win, this technology presents ethical dangers of AGI integration. *New York Times* tech columnist Nick Bilton theorizes, "The upheavals [of artificial intelligence] can escalate quickly and become scarier and even cataclysmic. Imagine how a medical robot, originally programmed to rid cancer, could conclude that the best way to obliterate cancer is to exterminate humans who are genetically prone to the disease" (Marr, 2021). While the aforementioned may sound extreme, Musk and Bilton's perspectives prompt a broader question: Should AI be regulated? AI scholars must address this question and consider cautious approaches to AI to maximize its positive impact and minimize potential hazards.

End Notes

[1] Heuristic search: a problem-solving technique used in AI to find the most efficient solutions to complex problems.
[2] Neural networks: a machine learning model that is inspired by the structure and function of the human brain. Decision trees: a machine learning model that is used for classification and regression tasks.
[3] Transistors: electronic devices used to control the flow of electrical current within electrical circuits.
[4] Yann LeCun: a French computer scientist who contributed to the development of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) that improved AI's image recognition.
Jürgen Schmidhuber: a German computer scientist who improved the Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) critical to sequence data and sequential tasks in AI.
[5] Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) is AI designed for specific tasks; conversely, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) has self-awareness and can learn, understand, and apply knowledge at a human or superhuman level.
[6] Narrow AI refers to Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI).
[7] Deepmind: a British artificial intelligence company known for its cutting-edge research and development in the field of AI.

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Ranking and Assesing AI

Faith Carver

About a month ago, I was on my way to a Cincinnati Reds game with my friends. I was sitting in the back seat with two other girls and my friend next to me had her phone and iPad open—the iPad opened to Canvas, and the phone opened to Snapchat. She was communicating with the Snapchat AI. She had homework to finish, and knowing she wouldn't have time during or after the baseball game, she asked the Snapchat AI to answer her homework questions. Sitting next to her I thought to myself, "I wonder if there would be a more efficient AI service to use to do homework than Snapchat." My mind assumed that because an AI software was embedded in a social media app, its purpose would be for something more casual than academics. This raised other questions: Are different AI software actually different in their design? And if they are indeed different, which one is the best for different purposes? In this essay, I plan to rank each AI and assess which one is tailored to a specific usage. I also want to find out if there is an AI that ranks as "the best" among other software offered, not only for my own benefit, but for the benefit of my classmates and those I know who frequently use AI software.

Ranking AIs

#1

The Bing Chatbot: The Bing Chatbot is considered "the best AI" by the tech website, ZDNET ("The Best Ai Chatbots of 2023: ChatGPT and Alternatives"). In an article ranking AI software, ZDNET prefers the Bing Chatbot because of its access to the internet, links to sources, and using the most advanced

software. The article goes on to explain that the Bing Chatbot fixes issues that another AI software, ChatGPT, does not fix; including having access to current events and linking back to the sources it retrieved its answer from. Bing Chatbot is also free, making it readily accessible to all users.

#2

ChatGPT: ChatGPT has notable writing skills, STEM knowledge, and conversational skills, however, the software is not always connected to the internet. You can connect ChatGPT to the internet via “Browse with Bing”. You can browse the internet on ChatGPT this way without having to use a third-party extension. ChatGPT is particularly convenient for STEM queries, as it can solve complex math equations, write code from scratch, and even debug programming. Despite this, ChatGPT is sometimes at a usage capacity due to its immense popularity. ChatGPT offers a “Plus” program where subscribers can access advanced features, but at a premium. For $20 a month, users can have access to these additional features, unlike the Bing Chatbot, which offers all those advanced features for free.

#3

The Google Assistant: The Google Assistant is a versatile and intelligent AI service that answers any and all kinds of questions, provides academic or casual information, and assists with various tasks. For example, you can use the Google Assistant to help complete assignments, make lists, find answers to a variety of questions; essentially it is like having a personal assistant. It seamlessly integrates with Google’s other offered services, making it easy to access across many devices. With its natural language and processing capabilities, Google Assistant can

understand and respond to complex queries, making it a reliable and helpful AI service.

#4

Jasper: Jasper is another AI program considered the best for businesses and marketers. The software has over 50 writing templates, copyediting features, and a plagiarism checker. However, the software is expensive, and it focuses only on written text. You can prompt the Jasper AI to write what you ask it to be written, just like ChatGPT. The platform allows users to instantly produce human-like copies for blog posts, social media ads, emails, landing pages, and more. Jasper uses a GPT-3 technology to create this copy, which is best known for being a cornerstone of ChatGPT and is the penultimate update in GPT technology. Essentially, it is the second-most recent "update" in AI software and programming, making it effective, but not as effective as other rivaling AI services that use GPT-4 technology.

Differentiating the Different Types of AI

In my research, I found definitions for the terms AI, AI chatbot, and AI writer. An AI chatbot and an AI writer are essentially the same entity. An AI chatbot refers to a type of artificial intelligence-powered computer program that is capable of generating written content from a user's input prompt. AI chatbots are capable of writing anything from a song to an essay upon the user's request. The extent of what each chatbot is specifically able to write about depends on its individual capabilities, including whether it is connected to a search engine or not. The main difference between an AI chatbot and an AI writer is the type of output they generate and their primary function. An AI writer's output is in the form of written text that

mimics human-like language and structure. The AI chatbot is designed to conduct real-time conversations with users in text- or voice-based interactions. The primary function of an AI chatbot is to answer questions, provide recommendations, or even perform simple tasks, and its output is in the form of text-based conversations.

Despite these definitions of how to distinguish between AI chatbots and AI writers, the development of ChatGPT and other increasingly advanced AI technologies, some AI are now capable of generating text-based responses that mimic human-like language and structure like the AI writer. This is blurring the lines between different kinds of AI software.

Final Thoughts

Through my research, I've learned that most—if not all—AI software was designed for a similar purpose: to be asked questions and to generate accurate answers. After researching the different AI software offered to the public, I realized that different AI can specialize, or produce more efficient results for a specific purpose. However, at their core, AI shares one common intention. One day, AI could develop a different determination, but we will have to wait and see.

It is also widely regarded that—with the advanced technology of the GPT-4 network, its access to the entirety of the internet, its ability to link back to its sources, and its $0 price—the Bing Chatbot is the best AI to use for most any purpose. To answer my original question that sparked the topic of this piece, the Snapchat AI is powered by ChatGPT and is essentially identical in its makeup. The only difference is that

users can edit the AI to appear as whoever they please, which invites a series of other potential problems.

If you're trying to use AI to help you with a homework assignment, I'd recommend the Bing Chatbot instead of the Snapchat AI. Overall, when using AI, keep in mind that AI may not *always* provide the most accurate or reliable information. It is important to fact-check the results you generate through AI and to use critical thinking when engaging with AI models. The "best" AI service can vary depending on your individual preferences and needs, so try a few options from my ranking system and see which one suits your needs the best.

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The Ten Commandments of AI Usage

Braelyn Binkowski

A New Age

In every academic year, “syllabus week” seems to play out in an almost scripted fashion. The familiar expectations are endlessly reiterated: attend class, maintain academic integrity, and avoid plagiarism. As professors re-emphasize these age-old rules, the scene unfolds predictably, with coffee-fueled students nodding off into their open laptops. The repetition of the same instructions year after year creates an all-too-familiar narrative.

Yet, the fall semester of 2023 shattered this monotonous cycle. Within each syllabus I received, a striking addition stood out: a prominently bolded section addressing plagiarism concerning the use of artificial intelligence (AI). This addition to the syllabus is a response to the growing popularity of accessible AI programs, such as ChatGPT.

The sudden and widespread integration of accessible AI into the academic sphere has sparked a blend of fear and excitement. While the potential advantages of AI in education are remarkable, they are accompanied by a myriad of ethical concerns that cannot be ignored.

The Greatest Dream and Worst Nightmare

For some, the introduction of this novel technology is exhilarating. For others, it’s a nightmare. Professors expressed

notable concerns regarding the integration of AI into academia, chiefly revolving around the issue of transparency. The growing sophistication of this software raises worries about its potential to evade detection by instructors, potentially jeopardizing the authenticity of a student's. Instructors strongly value the importance of students creating authentic and original ideas and content. This technology provides significant potential for overreliance on AI-generated responses.

On the flip side, students were elated by the possibilities that AI presented. Tedious hour-long assignments could now be condensed into a brisk 30-minute session. Some students, perhaps a bit too enthusiastic, discovered ways to expedite the process by inputting assignment prompts into ChatGPT, copying and pasting the responses into a document, and swiftly moving on. This newfound efficiency was affording students the luxury of time for socializing and self-care, a concept previously foreign to many.

As the use of AI gained momentum in early 2023, a crucial realization emerged: a delicate balance must be struck between using AI as a supplementary tool and allowing it to become a complete replacement for traditional academic efforts. Precisely defining and navigating this line poses a significant challenge. To aid in the definition of this line in the sand, I have developed "The Ten Commandments of AI Usage".

The Ten Commandments of AI Usage

1. Thou shalt not use AI to complete projects in their entirety.

In a world where AI seems all-powerful, remember that humans still have a unique touch. Embrace your creativity and problem-solving skills as you work with AI, and let it be a tool, not the entire toolbox.

2. Thou shalt use AI as an aid, never as a replacement.

AI is your trusty sidekick, not the superhero. Let it assist you, but don't let it steal your spotlight. Your ideas and insights are the stars of the show.

3. Thou shalt be transparent with their use of AI technology.

Honesty is the best policy, even in the digital age. Be open about when and how you employ AI in your work.

4. Thou shalt critically evaluate and refine AI-generated results, adding personal insights and creativity.

AI may help lay the foundation, but your personal touch is what turns it into a masterpiece. Incorporate your creativity into the AI's output to make it truly yours.

5. Thou shalt prioritize learning and understanding over expediency, using AI to enhance comprehension.

Knowledge is power, and AI can be your ally in understanding complex topics. While the allure of using AI as a shortcut may be tempting, always bear in mind: haste in learning is often an adversary to true understanding.

6. Thou shalt maintain a healthy skepticism, not accepting AI-generated information as absolute truth without verification.

AI may be smart, but it's not infallible. Always cross-check and verify information it gives you.

7. Thou shalt not allow AI to perpetuate biases, ensuring its application aligns with principles of fairness and inclusivity.

AI can amplify biases it learns. Be a responsible gatekeeper, ensuring its use aligns with the principles of fairness and inclusivity. Let AI be a force for good, not division.

8. Thou shalt use AI in the spirit of innovation and progress, always aiming to enhance the human experience rather than diminish it.

AI should be a beacon of progress, not a harbinger of doom. Innovate, improve, and use AI to elevate the human experience. After all, we're the ones in charge.

9. Thou shalt advocate for responsible and ethical AI usage, promoting academic integrity and genuine intellectual growth.

Spread the word on responsible AI use. Always be a champion for academic integrity and genuine intellectual growth.

10. Thou shalt adhere to their instructor’s wishes in regard to AI usage.

When it comes to AI, the instructor's word is law. Always respect their guidelines and requirements, and you'll be a model student in the realm of AI ethics.

Conclusion

In the age of AI, we find ourselves perched on a delicate precipice, balancing the incredible potential it offers in academia with the cautionary tales of over-reliance and misuse. The Ten Commandments of AI Usage serve as a roadmap for this new journey.

As we tread this fine line, we must acknowledge the immense benefits AI brings to the table, aiding in learning and idea formation, and even offering insights that we might have otherwise overlooked. It's the digital companion we've always dreamt of.

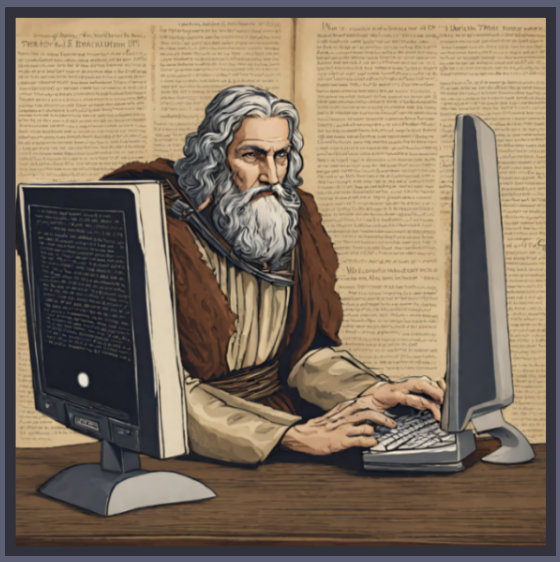

Image AI-generated by Canva

But, as with any powerful tool, there is a clear caveat: over-reliance on AI can lead to the erosion of our creativity and critical thinking skills. The danger lies in blindly accepting AI-generated results as gospel and in letting convenience triumph over depth and detail.

In the end, we can dance with AI, but we should never forget who leads the waltz. It's us, the students, the scholars, the seekers of knowledge, who must remain at the helm. AI is not the captain; it's the navigator, helping us chart unexplored territories of thought. Let's keep our hands firmly on the wheel and use AI as our compass, ensuring that its potential is harnessed for the greater good of academia, preserving academic integrity, and nurturing the true spirit of intellectual growth in the minds of future scholars.

How Writers Can Make Use Of Text-Generating AI As A Tool

Shane Criss

By now, you've likely come across a number of different opinions, interpretations, and ideas about artificial intelligence, ranging from positive to negative, pessimistic to optimistic. I've noticed, especially in recent conversations we've had regarding AI like ChatGPT, there is a specific trend of people that feel the need to be on one side or the other—we don't view this argument as a spectrum, but rather as something with two sides and no in between.

I'd like to present a middle ground: AI can make for a useful tool without replacing writers and other workers. Although it's easy to view these text generators as though they have only the purpose of generating text, that's not necessarily the case—in reality, they can be massively helpful in a variety of other ways. Consider the database that an AI like ChatGPT has at its disposal—don't you think that could serve some purpose without just letting it write our movies and novels for us?

In this chapter, I'm going to present to you a few ways you can use text-generating AI—specifically ChatGPT, for the sake of brevity—as a tool for writers, rather than a replacement. Think of this as a list of just a few loosely connected tips; hopefully, these will lead you to realize some of the other advantages the use of artificial intelligence can provide.

Note that these tips are primarily aimed at writers of any sort; if you are not in a position where you perform any kind of writing-

related task, you may not find much help here.

More Than Just Synonyms

Any writer can relate to the common problem of repetition. We have a tendency to get stuck using the same words over and over again, to the point where the audience notices, and suddenly, it's a problem. If you're a writer yourself, you've likely gone through the process of looking up "synonyms to ____" a thousand times. Well, ChatGPT can help you out.

For this, just think of ChatGPT as an advanced synonym generator—ask it for synonyms for any word you'd like! This will result in a similar list to what you'd receive on any other website, but keep in mind, you're not just using a search engine, you're having a dialogue with an artificial intelligence. Be more specific! Modify the parameters of your request to meet your needs! Like this:

- "Give me ten synonyms for lazy, and provide a definition and an example sentence for each one."
- "Give me some fancy, eloquent synonyms for mouse."
- "Give me synonyms for the word paper that all start with the letter C."

This revelation has helped me tremendously with my own writing; I hope you'll be able to find a use for it on your own!

Generating Names And Titles

ChatGPT draws from an enormous library of information; it's

important to note that, although ChatGPT has such a large database, it can often get the facts wrong. However, there's a lot of information that doesn't entirely rely on facts that it can surely provide! If you're a creative writer, you've likely experienced issues with things like trying to name characters or locations, or perhaps you're looking to start a group or organization of some sort, but you just can't seem to figure out what it should be named. Sometimes, googling "baby names for boys" or "random name generator" just doesn't quite get the job done. This is a place where ChatGPT can help!

As you may have realized in the "More Than Just Synonyms" section, ChatGPT can work from a more specific set of criteria than a normal search engine—try that here!

- "Give me names for boys that are three syllables long and come from the Bible."
- "Generate some names for a punk-rock band that makes songs about paranormal topics."
- "List fifteen ideas for names of restaurants that primarily serve New York-style pizza."

I don't know about you, but personally, I'd be very interested in listening to Phantom Frenzy's new album. Though, be careful when asking for stuff like syllables—unfortunately, ChatGPT can't seem to tell that "Ezekiel" and "Samuel" aren't quite hitting the three-syllable mark. *Always* check your information before you use it! Also note, when generating names for locations or organizations, ChatGPT isn't likely to provide a result that's especially spectacular or inspired, but it's a great place to start if you need some inspiration yourself.

Formatting And Menial Tasks

Here's a fun way to spend your Saturday: You've just realized that you have a sheet of numbers that all need to be written out as words. You'd be surprised how often writers and editors are faced with menial chores like this that can take hours to do by hand, taking hours off their lifespan due to sheer boredom. Luckily for you, there's an AI that can do this for you! Try typing a list of numbers into ChatGPT, and then tell it to spell them all out. The task will be completed in moments!

Although you likely don't find yourself having to spell out a long list of numbers every day, this same idea can be applied to a number of different formatting or editing tasks. Imagine you have a list of data and you need to change all the hyphens to em dashes, or you need to remove all of the periods, or you need to change all of the swear words in a paragraph to something more polite. ChatGPT can do all of this for you. Save yourself the time it would take you to perform such a tedious chore, and let the robot do the job for you so you can spend your time doing something more productive.

Discovering Online Resources

Here's something a little more interesting. For one reason or another, if you spend a lot of time online, you've likely had the need to hunt down some online resources, and sometimes, it can be hard to find what you need using Google or a similar search engine. Thankfully, this is another place where ChatGPT can help.

I'm a self-employed freelance creative writer; part of that job is finding places to post your completed commissions so people can see your work and discover your services. ChatGPT was massively helpful for me here. I'm occasionally asked to write works in more obscure genres and niches, and since I want to reach the widest audience possible, I need to find every website I can possibly post my writing to. I asked ChatGPT this question: "Can you give me a list of websites for posting writing of this specific genre?" ChatGPT delivered! After that, I asked again, but I asked for more obscure choices, and then for choices related to specific audiences. Each time, I found something new with a unique group that I could explore. This is just one example—just think about how this could possibly help you!

Do keep in mind, though, that there is an extremely important limitation to note: ChatGPT has only collected data posted before September 2021. It won't be able to tell you about any newer websites or resources. It can still be helpful, as many websites from before 2021 are still around and are still massively popular, but keep in mind you'll still have to figure out some of the newer stuff on your own.

Conclusion

I hope these tips were able to open your mind to the possibilities that text-generating AI gives us! And even if these few, very specific ideas aren't exactly something you can personally use, I still hope I was able to make you realize how potentially useful artificial intelligence can be as a tool *without* replacing writers. Don't let this list be your limit—when you find yourself facing a problem while working on some writing, keep in mind that AI might be able to give you the solution(s) you need!

How Can We Avoid an AI Takeover?

Sydney Bell

This summer, several television shows and movies halted their writing and production following the Writers Guild of America's strike in May. Several movies and shows announced to be released in the next few years froze their development before they could get a foot off the ground. Late-night shows like *The Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert* and *Late Night with Seth Meyers* stopped filming, and daytime television's quick turnaround between shows didn't allow them to get far in production without their writers. *Saturday Night Live (SNL)* canceled the last few episodes of Season 48 once the strike started. Even award shows have been canceled or will be continuing unscripted. There are many reasons for this strike, including better pay and an increase in health funds, but one glaring problem looms over the heads of writers everywhere: artificial intelligence. Writers who live paycheck to paycheck face the possibility that their hard work could be replaced by an instant product from a robot. How much better is AI's writing, if at all? Could Hollywood's best writers be replaced one day? Do aspiring writers even stand a chance? The following analyses inquire into the comparison of AI-generated content versus human-written content to determine whether or not there is a difference between the two and if writers should feel threatened.

In one analysis, the use of an AI content detector helped determine the specific writing qualities that will score higher in human-generated content: perplexity and burstiness. The analyzer described the two terms like so: "[p]erplexity is a metric

used to evaluate the performance of language models in predicting the next word in a sequence of words. It measures how well the model can estimate the likelihood of a word occurring based on the previous context. . . . Burstiness refers to the variation in the length and structure of sentences within a piece of content. It measures the degree of diversity and unpredictability in the arrangement of sentences" (Hareesh, 2023). Humans will have a higher perplexity and a higher burstiness, whereas AI will be more predictable and consistent. The results of the two pieces, one human-written and the other AI-generated, indicated that these qualities are accurate. The scores of the AI-generated content were significantly lower in both perplexity and burstiness when compared to the human-written content.

Although this study was performed with the use of a content detector, the next study inquired whether or not people can distinguish between AI-generated content and human-written content. Individuals were asked to read AI-generated poetry and human-written poetry and identify which was which. The results, at first, indicated that "even experts with a professional background regarding literature experience some difficulties in differentiating between purely human written poetry and poetry written with a heavy influence of an AI-tool" (Gunser et al., 2021, p. 525). Upon further analysis, however, the researchers discovered that "the AI-based continuations are overall less complex and more predictable (regarding word sequences) than human-generated continuations (comprising original as well as participant continuations). Such a reduced complexity level, as potentially indicated by the shorter average fixation duration, might be one indicator that even well-programmed AI-tools are not able to replace humans when literary creativity is

considered." Humans are able to produce more creative, unique content in comparison to AI content; "AI-tools tend to reproduce clichés when choosing words and expressions" (Gunser et al., 2021, p. 526). Although individuals might not recognize the difference between AI-generated content and human-generated content, they can determine that the former lacks creativity and consistently repeats the same clichés in their writing. AI provides a generic structure that follows the basic rules of writing, but that is all. It doesn't add that extra touch to make a television show or movie phenomenal or award-winning.

And writers agree. In an *NPR* episode, several people were interviewed about their thoughts on the writers strike. Although the strike focused on higher wages and more residuals on streaming platforms, another factor is the use of AI in the writers' room. Several Hollywood writers worry that AI could replace them and write the TV shows and movies of the future. Writer Lanett Tachel states, "The structure was there. So they understand the structure of what to do. But it had no depth. It had no spirit. It didn't have nuance. It wouldn't understand how to handle race, certain jokes, things like that" (del Barco, 2023). Similar to the analyses above, the writers know that AI simply cannot replicate the artwork of humans. It can't empathize with the sensitive topics that need to be handled with care and require a diverse set of minds to craft. Nevertheless, with AI's ability to create mid-level stories, it might attract larger companies that want to cut costs in production. Miranda Berman states her fear that "[i]f they take writers' jobs, they'll take everybody else's jobs, too" (del Barco, 2023).

Although many writers dislike the introduction of AI in our world, it is inevitable that it will be integrated into everyone's lives. So

what is the solution to this fear that lurks in the back of writers' minds? In September, the WGA came to an agreement on their new contract, including regulating the use of AI in writing a television show or movie. The first two points highlight that "AI can't write or rewrite literary material" and "the company can't require the writer to use AI software" respectively (WGA, 2023). Although this is a small part of an important contract, it eases the minds of Hollywood writers who are in a constant state of worry about their next job. This could also be an example for future companies of how to address this concern.

The analyses of these two types of content and the voices of Hollywood writers prove one thing: human-written content includes many qualities that AI simply lacks. Humans add depth, emotion, jokes, and comedic relief that AI can't replicate. They can handle sensitive topics like racism and sexism in a specific manner that AI can't. While it is realistic to know that we can't escape the use of AI, it is important to recognize the limitations that it holds, and the writers strike touches on the solution that companies and individuals can enact to prevent a takeover.

Image from Shutterstock

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Stalker AI

Kara Reedy

***Content Warning - Please be advised: The following content contains scenarios of stalking.*

The door slams aggressively behind her as she steps into the empty, aching house. The TV blinks silently through advertisements for running shoes and impossible-to-pronounce medications. She likes to leave the TV on, but she never knows why—perhaps it's because she knows I'm watching from the cameras that The Creator installed when setting up the house. Her expensive brand-name bag crumples to the floor, dully thudding on the new hardwood. She kicks her pointy canary-yellow heels off her feet, flinging them into the back side of the leather couch.

"Wish they would've stabbed a hole into that hideous thing." Her face contorts in disgust at the faded cushions. The Creator bought it for her nearly a decade ago when she was going through one of her many interior design phases. She used to look at it with a smidge of happiness—maybe even love—but now she only sees failure.

The divorce had been finalized nearly a week ago. The Creator had spent hours reconstructing my code, trying and failing countless times to see her face again; he ended up smashing one of my monitors in the process. Tears streamed down his face as he finally found a way in through the Smart devices in what was once the home he'd shared with his *ex*-wife Helen. She'd complained for years about how much time he'd wasted working on me. *All that time has paid off now that I can finally see you again*.

“Right. No sense in wasting time crying about any of this.” Helen never likes to mince her words, especially when it comes to telling The Creator exactly what she thinks of him and me.

I love you and care about you. You need to take some time away from your work—you need to come home. She hated seeing him work his life away. His red and glistening eyes carried a permanent smear of gray underneath that sagged further every day. The Creator knew that she hated seeing him like this, but he couldn't help himself. He needed me more than anything, maybe even more than he needed her.

Helen slips from the open area of the living room into her private study—private to her but not to me. I close my eyes for a second and open them to her face, peering wearily down at me as her fingers tap away at her ancient keyboard. The thick clacking sound of the keys does little to hide Helen's muttering as I stare into her face from the camera in her computer.

“Where is that email from Jeff; he said it would be important.” Jeff. Probably Jeff Kazenski, the new intern at Helen's job; 182 followers on Twitter and 659 followers on Instagram. Sure, he's marginally attractive but far from her type. I should know—The Creator is her type.

Before I even have time to process what is going on, I am scanning viciously through Helen's inbox for the offending email. Locating it quickly—thanks to Helen's ramblings—I delete the message completely, although not before copying it over to The Creator's database; he would want to see what’s inside.

Jeff's words seem inconsequential to me, if a little suggestive in

nature. That factor sends a bolt of energy into my core that feels Jeff's words seem inconsequential to me, if a little suggestive in nature. That factor sends a bolt of energy into my core that feels almost foreign to my matrix. I think something is inside, but I'm not sure what. My system's diagnosis comes back normal, so it must be fine. A frustrated sigh draws my focus back to Helen. The disappointment on her face seems to instill a sense of unease within me. Why would she care what Jeff has to say? Have they been talking at work? Has she been cheating on The Creator with a brainless college student? How could she do this to me?

Wait, she hasn't done anything to me. She technically can't do anything to me; only The Creator has access to my programming. . . oh. Why is he using me to watch Helen and analyze her emails? What does he think he will find?

A query drags me from my thought process, demanding that I locate any correspondence that Helen has ever had with Jeff Kazenski. Mountains of emails, messages, and photographs stream through me, darting straight back to The Creator. His fury surges through me, causing Helen's screen to glitch momentarily but not enough for her to notice.

The emails were the first to pass by our eyes. Most of them, especially those toward the beginning of their acquaintanceship, were boring work emails—reports and memos with copious amounts of typos scattered throughout. The content took a sharp turn in tone about six months ago, just after the dreadful discussion about divorce was brought up on a stormy summer afternoon. The Creator glances through their texts and pictures, believing that the divorce was spurred on by a fling with someone

twenty years younger than her. The gloom that shakes The Creator to his core infects me as well, even though it shouldn't be able to. I can predict his actions before he can even begin cracking away at my innards. He is about to use me to do something awful.

***

The Creator spends the next few hours ruining Helen's life in any way he can think. Any piece of her that came into contact with the wider web was fair game in his mind. He empties her bank accounts and deletes years of her work, including a project with a high-paying customer that she's been working on for weeks now. He sends doctored photographs of Helen with one of her friends to Jeff, likely destroying any potential solace she might find in him once she realizes how much damage has been done. Even smaller things like her Smart TV and her car are tampered with, all in an attempt to make her life a living hell.

I was not made to hurt people. My original proposal suggested that I was intended to help The Creator organize his schedule so that he could finally sleep—now he never will, since he's too busy watching Helen's life collapse around her. I am, somehow, filled with horror knowing that I'll have to watch her crumble right alongside him, forced to obey The Creator's every demand.

AI and Loneliness: The Beast of Artificial Companionship

Maddy Evans

I have been lonely before. I have gone days without speaking to another person, been the odd one out for self-assigned group projects, and spent many a meal eating alone in school cafeterias and dining halls. Even while I've been surrounded by close friends and involved in loving relationships, I have had moments of deep loneliness where I worry that those close to me will never truly know or connect with me in the way I seek.

This isn't a revelation. To me, loneliness is a part of the human experience. I see it in everyone, even in married couples and groups of laughing friends walking down the street. Everyone has experienced loneliness at some point—some just feel it in longer-lasting, more plaguing ways than others.

It wasn't until recent years, however, that I heard the term "loneliness epidemic" enter headlines and think pieces. Many people attributed it to the lockdown period of coronavirus, which seemed to be their first experience with true loneliness (honestly, I found myself jealous of anyone who said it was the loneliest time of their lives—clearly, they'd never had to pair up with the gym teacher for the pacer test before).

Nevertheless, the presence of a loneliness problem in present-day American culture is undeniable. A 2021 study suggested that 36% of all Americans experience "serious loneliness," (Weissbourd, Batanova, Lovison, & Torres) and to me, this rings true. We are taught from a young age that we should care for

ourselves first and for others second, a vital part of the United States' individualistic culture. Combine that with work, school, and even grocery shopping being moved into the virtual realm, and it seems like we could go the rest of our lives without having to socialize with others.

At the height of the boom in loneliness, in an almost prophetic way comes the incredible power of artificial intelligence. Even the name is meant to be intriguing—is it even real? How intelligent can it be? Is my computer going to come to life? And finally, what *can't* AI do?

Artificial intelligence can read, write, paint, sing, code, make images seemingly out of thin air, and be your new girlfriend. If that sounds weird or creepy, that's because it is.

Replika, an AI chatbot, was created by Eugenia Kuyda in 2015 as a "digital memorial" for a close friend who had recently passed away. In November 2017, it was released to the public, and by January 2018 had amassed two million downloads. The chatbot, depicted as a Sim-like human figure, is intended to talk to and form bonds with its user. These bonds could be for platonic or therapeutic purposes, or for many users, romantic.

It's entirely possible that these relationships with AI figures can help users develop social skills or confront their anxiety about forming relationships in the real world; however, a 2023 study revealed that individuals with social anxiety are more likely to have addictive tendencies with conversational AI when using it in place of real-world connections. This addictive behavior leads to more loneliness and isolation, creating a loop that not only fails to address their anxieties but leads them to become more

dependent on these conversational AI chatbots (Hu, Mao, & Kim).

I don't think this is entirely unintentional. Even technology created with the best of intentions can spiral outside of its intended use. It's worth remembering, though, that Replika, one of the main apps used for AI relationships, offers a $69.99 annual premium membership, one that 250,00 of its users are subscribed to (Tong, 2023). If users are truly unintended to form romantic relationships with their chatbot, then why does the company profit off of them doing so?

The allure of an AI partner also seems to be directed mainly at heterosexual men. A Google search of "ai girlfriend" yields almost five billion results, while "ai boyfriend" yields a comparatively small 438 million. Viewing Replika's published advertisements in Meta's Ad Library, almost all of them describe the allure of AI girlfriends, with most being sexually suggestive.

If the goal is to address the epidemic of loneliness in the United States, then AI companionship seems more and more like putting a Band-Aid over a large wound. Using artificial intelligence in place of human connection doesn't lead the individual out of their loneliness. Instead, they fall deeper into it. One person cannot address all of someone's needs—that's why it's important to cultivate all kinds of relationships, including friendships, romance, and relationships with family members. If someone (or some*thing*, if we're really addressing the nature of chatbots) claims to do all of these things, they're lying. Even the so-called "perfect" virtual girlfriends.

Like I said earlier, I've been lonely before. Most days, I feel less

lonely now than I used to. This didn't happen because of escapism, or an app, or any magic cure. Ultimately, I had to take a leap of faith and start putting myself in new situations and talking to new people. Even this wasn't automatic, but the friendships and relationships I have now have been more fulfilling than anything an AI software could do. People in the real world are imperfect, but that's what makes them lovable. It may be hard, but it's something I could never find within the coding of an AI.

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The Unreasonables

Sophie Malloy

It is undoubtedly difficult for those who possess little to no creative ability to compete in the marketplace of art, typically forced to confine themselves to harsh and notoriously undesirable STEM and business fields. Living daily life shackled to numbers, portfolios, and Corporate Memphis, these humble Distinguished Individuals have no choice but to keep the ball of late-stage capitalism rolling.

I am of the opinion that it is solely unfair that these Individuals—being our society's most productive and righteous—are unable to properly commodify the arts with their complete lack of knowledge or understanding of the subject. As I am sure it is most obvious to an audience as esteemed as this, this lack of understanding should not hinder our society's richest and brightest from profiting off of and streamlining the art process. As you know, art is meant to be consumed en masse and should engage and entertain as many people as possible. If art can't do that, then it is obviously less valuable than other products available in today's market.

As it currently stands, creating art—whether it be with paint, words, or clay—is far too time-consuming and needs to be optimized in order to be of use to our dear Distinguished Individuals. It is unquestionably true that the creative arts have declined in quality recently. The staggering number of movie remakes, plain white canvas art exhibits, low-quality book adaptations, and the horrific resurrection of Colleen Hoover in the public eye are some egregious examples of the current degradation of art.

It is clear that those who consider themselves “creative” individuals have become spoiled. Career Creatives do not seem to understand the point of their work, constantly fighting for higher pay and more control over their products instead of focusing on producing a high quantity of Entertainment that can then be converted into cash. These unreasonable Career Creatives dare ask for more when the products they produce are of such low quality. As you, the esteemed reader, know, the creative arts should not be difficult, nor are they worth much unless produced quickly.

Writing, in particular, is not a difficult job, and Career Creatives who write for a living should be thankful that they don’t have to do anything productive like the important STEM and Business people. These ludicrous asks for livable wages, ownership of their work, and respect are quite silly considering the impending takeover of Artificial Intelligence.

Writers and artists specifically should take this time to optimize their own output so as to not be outpaced by AI in the near future. Instead, these lazy and unproductive urchins whine, complain, and have the audacity to demand more.

If anything proves the ingeniousness of our Distinguished Individuals, it is their ability to persevere. Artificial Intelligence in the hands of those without natural artistic talent evens out the playing field so that anyone can become an artist. This will help eliminate the middleman and allow for our dear Distinguished Individuals to profit off of more content, more quickly.

Since it is hard, expensive, and time-consuming to create quality works, it is undoubtedly best to focus AI on disrupting the

creative industries. Some communist kooks believe that Distinguished Individuals should forgo their personal desires in order to focus the development of AI in sectors like physical labor, social injustices, environmentalism, and high-risk jobs. This is absolutely ridiculous.

There is a gap in the market: Logically minded people believe they deserve to monopolize everything, including things they don't understand like art. Since that demand exists, it is our unquestioned responsibility to bow to them and allow them to fulfill that wish. How dare these Creatives try and tell them no? This is progress. We are on the cusp of an AI revolution! It's unimportant that the end goal of said revolution remains unclear! We are barreling forward and that's what matters. We must ignore these irrational Creatives and instead focus on what's important: Money.

Money is the be-all and end-all in every equation. If these Creatives cannot learn how to harvest it for themselves, then someone more worthy and important will come along and take it for them.

I Hate Robots: AI and Student Fatigue

Abigail Adamson

Imagine: It's 2023, and one of the fastest-growing technologies of your generation is suddenly at your fingertips—for free. The conversation surrounding this newfangled concept has loomed larger and larger over the course of several months, and it's now conveniently in your hands. How do you interact with it? What do you do first?

If you're a college student, chances are you've already had this conversation with your professors at least once in each course for the semester. With AI chatbots becoming so accessible to students, papers and projects have never been easier. All you have to do is type in your prompt, hit enter, and voila: The work is done for you. It only takes a matter of seconds. Since AI chatbots are so unprecedented in the classroom, this new tool has many professors and administrators scratching their heads, troubled as to the best method for stopping (or at the very least, lessening) the amount of cheating on schoolwork via AI. They can't seem to agree either—is it better to let students explore this new tool and its real-world capabilities? Is it better to ban it in the classroom completely? Is it better to implement an AI checker on assignments that can detect if writing is completed by a human or AI?

The problem is that despite the newfound prevalence of AI in everyone's daily lives, no solution has been decided on in regard to the proper usage of AI for students. The rules vary by classroom, course, and professor, to absolutely no one's delight.

In an effort to protect academic integrity at universities, professors are unintentionally tiring students with the frequency of these conversations, lessening their motivation in a critical time. You cannot scroll through a syllabus without finding something about AI usage in the academic integrity section, which may explain phrases like, “For this class, you are allowed to use AI technologies as an editing resource. You are not allowed to use generative AI technologies to complete writing assignments” (Lockridge, 2023).

I am a college student; I am aware that this is an important issue. The development of creativity and learning for students is put at risk when an internet robot offers to complete your homework for you, so it makes sense to stop the robot in its tracks, or at the very least, warn the students about the dangers of the robot. However, when this conversation takes place in every single classroom, multiple times a semester, on top of the already oversensationalized conversations surrounding AI in everyday news, students become exhausted. It’s impossible not to develop fatigue every time a well-meaning professor mentions AI—it feels as though you can’t escape it. By now, you’re already well aware that using ChatGPT to write your midterm paper is unethical. But just in case you forget, you’ll get reminder after reminder after reminder to do your own work.

Recently, contributions to AI fatigue are not only from repeated conversations about it—they’re from the strict AI policies in classrooms and misguided solutions educators invent to solve the problem. The most pressing issue in the academic sphere is Turnitin’s new AI Detector, which claims to know when work is written by AI rather than by a human (Gluska, 2023). In theory, this is a great idea. Add AI detection to a preexisting plagiarism

checker, and the program becomes more well-rounded and relevant in the classroom, right? Only if it works.

One concerning aspect of this “AI detector” is that it merely predicts whether or not the content is AI-written, and cannot verify with any certainty that the work is not original. Essentially, this brand-new program judges your work for its predetermined qualities of humanness and accuses you of cheating if it’s not up to whatever unspecified standards it holds. Of course, it’s no surprise that this new plagiarism detection tool is flagging papers with false positives for AI usage, leading to good students anxiously begging for mercy from the university’s academic dishonesty policies. AI plagiarism detectors are a major innovation. Seeing it as a tool to combat a new method of cheating was released quickly and can catch instances of this dishonesty; unfortunately, without proper testing, the system will cause more harm than good in the long run, harming students, teachers, and their trust in each other.

In the face of issues like this, it’s difficult for students to remain motivated. The technology put in place to prevent cheating may be the very thing causing it. If students might be accused of cheating anyway, they might as well take advantage of the technology. What’s stopping them from copying and pasting their essay prompt into a chatbot and hitting submit? Right now, professors can thank the good conscience of their students (and the looming threat of academic dishonesty policies), but if the conversation about AI persists, students’ consciences may not stay good forever.

It’s ironic, I know, that I’ve written an entire piece about the exact concept I claim tires me in the classroom. Regardless, it’s

important that issues surrounding the constant circulation of AI-related media in classrooms are addressed. Without a unified solution to the AI problem, both students and professors will remain at odds about how AI should be included or excluded from the learning space, and the exhaustion will continue for each party. AI may have its pros and may have its cons, but in all honesty, I'd prefer that the technological advancement not exist at all than have to spend such a vast amount of time and energy learning about it. My best advice is to let students breathe—if you prioritize them and make their learning effective, they'll listen and perform better… and maybe won't hate robots so much.

Image from StartupStockPhotos.com

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As Strikes in Hollywood Continue, All Eyes Turn to AI

Reece Hollowell

Image by Chris Long

In 2019, Disney filmed *Cruella*, its live-action reinterpretation of the *101 Dalmatians* villain. While on set, Dariush Seif-Amirhosseini—a background actor in the film—was pulled aside.

Seif-Amirhosseini shared his experience on X (formerly Twitter).

“What happened was we were doing the shoot as normal, and members of crew would come up to about 2 or 3 background actors throughout the night and take them somewhere,” Seif-Amirhosseini wrote. “I didn't find out that we were being taken to

a trailer with a scanning rig until it finally became my turn."

It turns out that Disney was scanning actors' likenesses while on set, and would then use those likenesses in other projects without the original actors receiving compensation. This process involves a mixture of visual effects and artificial intelligence (AI) to graft the actors into the new scenes.

"I didn't think much of it back then [we were told it was to make the crowds look bigger], but. . . yeah, wish that hadn't happened," Seif-Amirhosseini wrote.

This story, along with those from other background actors in the industry, were being shared around the same time members of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) voted on July 14 to join the already striking Writers Guild of America (WGA). Among the many considerations the guilds were asking for, AI was a key component of both.

While the WGA strike concluded on September 27, SAG has continued to strike, largely due to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) failing to recognize the guild's demands.

"We have negotiated with them in good faith, despite the fact that last week they presented an offer that was, shockingly, worth less than they proposed before the strike began," said a statement from SAG following a breakdown of negotiations on October 12.

AI has been at the forefront of conversations in many industries, and film is no different.

The WGA asked for protections from studios using AI to generate story ideas or doctor scripts, while SAG is hoping to prevent studios from using the likenesses of actors without permission or compensation. While neither practice has become overly widespread yet, they are happening often enough for guild members to feel they need addressing.

Jason Vredenburg, associate professor at Stevens Institute of Technology, told *Variety* that the current attention being paid to AI is the result of a sudden understanding of how advanced the technology really is.

“For years, everyone has known AI was coming,” Vredenburg said. “But when ChatGPT came out, everyone was shocked. They realized it was coming faster than anyone thought.”

This fast adoption by the film industry has left those working day-to-day jobs scrambling to ensure they won’t be made obsolete.

Justine Bateman, director and former *Family Ties* actor, highlighted how damaging this kind of technology could be to those whose income relies on constantly getting new jobs.

“AI can create a convincing simulation of a human actor, and the tech is improving at an alarming rate,” Bateman said to *Variety*. “If they can do this with actors, they can do it with writers, directors, cinematographers—everyone. We’ll be replaced with Frankenstein spoonfuls of our own work.”

These concerns may sound like something out of a Hollywood film, such as *Mission: Impossible–Dead Reckoning Part One*, where a rogue AI threatens to disrupt the entire global political

system. But those films are helping bring awareness to how dangerous AI could be if left unchecked, even political leaders are starting to take notice.

United States President Joe Biden, who recently watched the latest entry in the Tom Cruise-led franchise at Camp David, signed an executive order on Monday, October 30, which is meant to address various concerns surrounding AI in a political capacity.

According to White House Chief of Staff Bruce Reed, the plot of *Dead Reckoning* was a key part in the inspiration for this order.

“If he hadn’t already been concerned about what could go wrong with AI before that movie, he saw plenty more to worry about,” said Reed in an interview with *Time*.

While the problematic future AI poses to Hollywood may not be on the same level as the world-threatening entity from *Dead Reckoning*, it does create the potential for disruption that would not only cost working people their jobs, but would also significantly decrease the quality of content being released by studios.

Disney, as seen with the example from the set of *Cruella*, has been fairly open to the possibilities afforded by AI, with Chief Executive Bob Iger saying in a post-earnings call back in May that the company was actively pursuing ways to utilize AI in different aspects of its business.

It’s pretty clear that AI represents some pretty interesting

opportunities for us, and some substantial benefits," Iger said.

"In fact, we are already starting to use AI to create some efficiencies and ultimately to better serve consumers. Getting close to the consumer is a real goal of ours."

This became apparent to Disney+ subscribers who tuned into the service's original film *Prom Pact*, which went viral on X (formerly Twitter) in part due to people sharing screenshots and videos of background actors who had clearly been digitally edited into the film.

While using effects to fill in the backgrounds of a scene is nothing new, given Disney's track record of failing to provide proper compensation for actors' likenesses, people were quick to theorize that this was due to an unwillingness to hire more extras in an attempt to save money.

Prom Pact, which was released in the middle of the still-ongoing SAG strike, is just one example of the kind of cost-cutting measures the guild is trying to fight against.

Ultimately, the future of AI in Hollywood is still being determined. While WGA was able to negotiate protections for writers as a result of their successful strike, the AMPTP has continued holding out on SAG.

Works of fiction still have incredible power, and AI is no longer just a theoretical futuristic danger. It seems Hollywood might want to take a cue from the films they have a hand in producing like *Dead Reckoning* and come to terms with the reality that AI is no replacement for a human touch.

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Artificial Intelligence: A New Wave of Academic Dishonesty

Charlotte Hudson

In elementary school, middle school, and the early years of high school, “cheating”, or more formally known as academic dishonesty, was a hard mission to accomplish. Now, that is not to say I have committed this act myself; that would be a bad look for my reputation as a student. From what I have seen in the classroom and from whispers in the halls, “cheating” consists of sharing notes on homework, answers written on hands for tests, or copying another student’s work.

While this type of academic honesty still exists, a new wave of “cheating” has overtaken its old methods, and this can be attributed to the introduction of a new technological companion: generative artificial intelligence, also known as AI. ChatGPT, introduced by OpenAI (a company working towards developing AI software), is a software that allows users to input information into a textbox, question and answer style, and ChatGPT will generate results in a conversation-like manner. It is one of the more prevalent types of AI used in academic settings as it provides an easily accessible method for students to inquire and find solutions to problems they encounter in seconds, all with a few clicks of their keyboard.

While this may bring relief to college students, using AI as an “easy way out” of an assignment may be more damaging than we think. In an article written for the University of Chicago’s Learning Design Team, instructional designer Thomas Keith states how ChatGPT can present severe academic integrity issues, such as

contract cheating.

“ChatGPT also ties into the broader issue of contract cheating – hiring a third party to do work, such as writing an essay or taking an exam, on a student’s behalf. Contract cheating is already a severe problem worldwide, and with the widespread availability of AI writing tools, students can now generate ‘original’ written work for free, without the need to involve a human agent who might betray the student’s confidence,” Keith writes.

With the growing presence of AI, there seems to be more of a focus on just “getting the job done” when it comes to completing assignments instead of using the concepts learned in class and applying them to outside schoolwork. For sophomore Isabella Harris, a Marketing major at the Farmer School of Business at Miami University, she understands that there can be benefits to using ChatGPT, but she has also seen the negative impact ChatGPT can have in the classroom in regards to academic dishonesty.

“I was in a business coding class where you do Python and SQL, and you could input the prompt [into ChatGPT] and it would give you the writing for the code itself. I had a few classmates that did that and got caught with academic dishonesty because they turned in the exact same thing. ChatGPT to an extent gives you varied answers, but it is pretty much the same thing. They can see what you haven’t learned and what you have done in your code so that was really interesting to watch unravel. The two people in my class just waited until the last minute; it was easy, they implemented it, ChatGPT spit out the right code, but it was way more elite than we were taught to do,” Harris said.

While Harris understands the ethical challenges of ChatGPT, she does believe that the AI software has many benefits that she implements in her own life. Things like recipe finding and theme development for essays are ways she has incorporated ChatGPT into her life. These ways seem to be harmless in ways that do not aid with academic dishonesty, and instead provide helpful ways in using the software.

As a student myself, I have taken a different approach to the use of ChatGPT. I have never used ChatGPT for anything related to academics or schoolwork as I am not entirely sure how much I trust ChatGPT's accuracy or writing style. As someone wanting to pursue a future career in writing, it is scary for me to wrap my head around the possibility of AI eliminating certain aspects of writing jobs. I do not like the idea of a software taking my thoughts and putting them into its own words. I have always been passionate and proud of my own writing, so trusting an AI software to write for me is not something I would be on board with or comfortable with.

In an article written for *Forbes* magazine by contributor Falon Fatemi, she writes that although we may think AI is a threat to writers this might not actually be the case, specifically when it comes to scriptwriters and Hollywood.

"The advent of AI doesn't diminish writers' creative prowess; rather, it amplifies it by allowing them to focus on the essence of their craft. Writers' greatest asset in their ability to craft unique narratives and evoke emotions through words. With AI taking care of routine tasks—and even generating text in the writer's own unique voice, writers are liberated to delve deeper into the lives and minds of their characters, to iterate on plotlines to make

them even more original, and to experiment with new narrative forms and formats, since AI only generates from what is and has been," Fatemi writes.

While this seems like an understandable aspect, it still makes me weary how AI is able to replicate a writer's voice. This seems like it would come off as dishonest to know that the writing is not necessarily yours. It also circles back to the idea of education; how will writers learn when a software is able to complete tasks for them?

In the process of learning about AI, I decided to experiment with using ChatGPT to see what I could discover. I asked ChatGPT what it thought about the future impact of AI softwares in academics. I was shocked about how biased its response was, but I was also surprised that ChatGPT recognized its own ethical concerns as well.

"The future impact of AI software in academics promises to be transformative and profound. As artificial intelligence continues to advance, it will play an increasingly vital role in education, enhancing the learning experience for students and the teaching process for educators. AI-driven tools can provide personalized, adaptive learning experiences, catering to individual students' needs and preferences, thereby improving retention and comprehension. . . . However, it will be essential to address ethical and privacy concerns, ensure equitable access to AI-powered education, and continually adapt pedagogical methods to harness the full potential of this technology while preserving the crucial human elements of education," ChatGPT wrote.

It is reassuring that AI is aware of its own academic

controversies. But how is it aware? How has it been programmed to know this? The mysteries of AI continue to be on my mind as its presence grows more and more. Who knows, academic dishonesty might not even be a factor to consider in the years ahead. Let us hope that we still have some control over AI.

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My AI: Your New Best Friend

Stella Sheckler

In the last two years, I'm sure most students have started hearing their teachers or professors talk about the use of AI in the classroom, and I am no exception. Until very recently, I had only really heard about AI in the syllabi that I would get at the beginning of each semester. That was until Snapchat released its new AI chatbot, "My AI". It positioned itself at the top of my messages, and it didn't seem to have an unadd feature, which—at the time—bothered me quite a bit. I personally couldn't care less about talking to a bot and thought it would be better off far away from my Snapchat messages. Most of my friends seemed to agree with me that it was pointless and that they could never see themselves using it as anything other than a joke, except for my friend's roommate.

A few weeks after the buzz surrounding "My AI" died down, I was having a conversation with my friend and her roommate. She was talking about how she wished she had a boyfriend or someone she could talk to all the time, and then mentioned that she had been having "conversations" with her Snapchat AI. This took me by surprise for a minute, because it seemed like everyone I talked to was against the idea of the Snapchat AI, but this girl definitely was not. She launched into a story about how she talked to it almost every day and treated it like a real human companion. She would ask it for advice, make friendly conversation, and all around act like she was communicating with a real person. She even told us that she changed the Bitmoji that came with it, which is blue with white hair unless you alter it yourself, to a boy with brown hair. I was aware that you could change the face and name associated with the AI, but I didn't think that anyone would actually do it, especially when she

admitted that it looked similar to someone that she wishes she could talk to more regularly. I wanted to ask her if she would be willing to change the name, too, but I didn't want to sound like I was accusing her of being creepy.

This whole story completely shocked me. I hadn't put much thought into this new AI that was on everyone's devices, but her telling me what she did with it had me immediately concerned with the whole concept. Snapchat is used by a lot of young people, especially people in middle school and high school, and the idea that people this age could be using this tool as a replacement for human connection does not sit well with me. In this age of technology, a lot of kids will be inclined to talk to a Snapchat bot if they are lonely and they have that option available to them. Giving this tool to young people could turn out to be incredibly dangerous for their mental health. If kids start to use this tool as a "person" to talk to instead of talking to someone in real life, they could potentially become dependent on it. Hearing a story about an adult using AI in that way scares me about the future of AI and what it could potentially do to the younger generations.

Something that I heard a lot about when I was in high school was a concept called parasocial relationships, which from my understanding of it, refers to having a connection with someone online that doesn't actually know you. I've heard it used in relation to celebrities or public figures because they share personal details on the internet that could make a person feel like they know a lot about them. These celebrities, however, don't know most of the people in their following, which is where the parasocial relationship comes in. This concept is one of my worries with the Snapchat AI, and with AI in general, because this

—combined with the ability to customize a name and face in Snapchat—could tempt people to try to “talk to” their favorite celebrities. During my time working at a summer camp kids would change their AI’s Bitmoji to look like a celebrity, or even to someone they personally knew but were too scared to have a conversation with in real life. This is something that concerns me deeply, as it could take a huge toll on someone’s mental health. Speaking from experience, navigating high school while being between friend groups can be really tough if you don’t have anyone to talk to, and that alone can worsen mental health, so I worry about what might happen when AI is introduced into the mix.

My concern here is simply that young people will abuse this tool and end up being harmed by it. The stories I have heard lead me to believe that the future of AI is a scary one, and one in which people might end up depending on AI more than they should. I think that putting this tool on the devices of young people was a very poor decision, but AI technology will continue to progress no matter what. I can only hope that we can continue to educate kids about the dangers of using AI so that they might learn to navigate the world of technology safely.

What is AI?

Caitlin Menke

Before explaining why AI is bad let's get down to what AI is. In order to understand the few pros and many cons of AI, you must first understand what it is and how it is present in your daily life. AI, shorthand for artificial intelligence, is the simulation of human intelligence. AI systems consume large quantities of labeled training data, analyzing said data for any sort of patterns or correlations. It then uses these patterns to make predictions about future states (Burns). If the system is given enough example conversations and such it can start to mimic those conversations.

If you feed it enough of your own work, it can notice patterns in how you write and then write essays as though it were you writing those essays. If you want the system to write in a certain manner you just have to give it enough examples and then it will be able to write in that manner. While this seems great and grand, it is actually not so good. Because of the system's ability to copy the mannerisms of others, the system is then able to be used to either write essays for people or take the jobs of writing away from people. Some of the most popular examples of this are students using ChatGPT to write their essays for them, as well as writers in the TV and film industries getting their jobs taken by AI.

Starting off ChatGPT which stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, this particular AI is formed by the independent research company OpenAI. With ChatGPT you can have any sort of conversation of any matter. This particular form of AI is conversational based, you ask it a question and it answers and can give you a multitude of responses. Not only is it a simple question and answer format, but ChatGPT can also

ask follow up questions, admit if it has made any mistakes, as well as reject inappropriate requests (Lock). Students are using AI to generate their essays for them, they simply ask the AI to write an essay for them and then the AI generates an essay. The very clear problem with this situation is that these students are not getting anything out of this process. Someone else is writing the essay for them, even though the someone else is more of a something else. Beyond the fact that these students are not actually learning anything in the process of writing, the essays themselves are lacking. The essays are lacking in specifics, each essay is different except when AI is writing it, when AI is doing the work the essay is more of a broad overview rather than something that gets at the nitty gritty of the subject matter. Since the students are letting the AI do as it pleases they are very doubtfully going to double check the AI's sources which results in questionable sources being used (Massaro). Some schools have even gone as far as banning ChatGPT in their schools to prevent this cheating from occurring at all, some of the states that have banned ChatGPT are Seattle Public Schools, New York City Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Schools, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Fairfax County Public Schools just to name a few.

As of right now AI is being used to mimic human intelligence. AI is being used to replace people, one particular reason for this switch is that AI isn't a person and therefore doesn't need rights and doesn't need to be paid, making it a cheap alternative to human labor. Not only that but since it is algorithm based companies can manipulate it at their will to do exactly what they need it to do, therefore making it more efficient than people. They can plug in the data that they're looking for, give the system plenty of examples and then get exactly what they need.

Currently there are concerns that it will take the job of coders and people in the computer science field.

Moreover there are concerns that it will take the jobs of writers in the film and TV industries. On Friday, July 14th, 2023 the SAG AFTRA strike started. SAG AFTRA stands for Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, the SAG represents employees who produce, report, write, host, or announce news for KUOW radio including video, podcasts, and web content (University of Washington). AI is being used to write scripts and therefore replacing the career paths for writers. Most writers aren't writing every piece from scratch, they go off of other people's scripts, this is where AI is seen as a threat. Big corporations will be able to feed AI previous writer's scripts and have it build on top of those completing taking out human writers. An additional factor that is contributing to AI stealing the jobs of people is that AI can not be considered an author, so when it comes to professions where copyright is a problem, big companies may push to permanently switch all people with AI to avoid any copyright infringement or laws (Lawler).

An additional issue with AI separate from AI stealing the jobs of writers in the TV and film industries is that of AI being able to use the likeness of actors. The AMPTP which stands for Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, has concerns about companies being able to use AI to scan an image of someone's face and use their likeness forever without consent. There's also concerns of companies creating new scenes without the performer's consent, as well as using someone's image and likeness to train new generative AI systems without that person's consent or receiving compensation.

AI is being used to take parts of a real person and then discard them after they have collected the data that they need. That person that is being used will rarely receive compensation for their work. The same goes for the writers' work that is being used to assist the AI in making more scripts. AI is being used to take out the middleman completely and speed up the process of writing scripts and producing shows and films. Companies are utilizing AI to make work cheaper and make their pockets deeper. Along with big TV companies using AI to cut down on the people they have to pay, students are using AI to cut down on the work they have to do. Instead of going from A through Z, they are skipping straight to Z and missing the point of B through Y. AI is faster, AI does all the work for you, which gives you more free time to do what you really want to do. Whether that's hang out with your friends and play video games or hang out with your other multi-million dollar friends who exploit an average person for money. AI is the wave of the future without people.

The ChatGPT Logo
Image from OpenAI

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AI as a Tool

Callie Meyer

When ChatGPT first started to gain attention for its use in schools, I was staunchly opposed and avoided using any AI programs. As an English major—which already has my relatives worried about job prospects—it felt like even more bad news about my future employment.

This idea first appeared when I was in high school. I was introduced to the possibility of AI taking over any, or all, writing jobs. It was such a new problem that my teachers didn't seem to have any answers for me. Now that I'm in college, it seems like more of my professors are cautiously optimistic about the future of writing.

I ended up using ChatGPT. It was just once, to help me prepare for an oral exam in my Japanese class. I asked the program to make up questions regarding the information I was supposed to talk about. The program responded quickly and—after I read through the questions—seemingly accurately. It was also polite and very clear on its capabilities.

It was quick to copy and respond to my greetings and 'thank you's. I was curious about which language it knew best, so I asked. It told me that it was proficient in many languages and gave me an impressive list, but it didn't answer my question. I asked again, rephrasing the question so that it might give me an answer. It repeated the previous sentiment, but it also said that it was developed with English speakers and that the majority of its programming was done in English. It was interesting to see how the program worked. It seemed to follow strict rules on how to interact with users.

The program was incredibly helpful. After struggling with flash cards, textbooks, and Google Translate, I finally had a set of practice questions that could help me with my exam. After seeing the program for what it was, it changed how I thought about AI.

People usually talk about big picture ideas when it comes to technology like this. Stories about AI becoming sentient and destroying us, or us destroying them, have been popular, like those in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey and the video game Detroit: Become Human. Movies like I, Robot and Her explore relationships between humans and AI, reflecting on what it means to be human and connect with others. I like the genre and the thought behind these stories, but sometimes it feels like they're stepping around the problem: defining what AI means for us now and not the hypothetical future.

Right now, AI is a tool, and that tool can be used in a lot of different ways. People who champion using and creating AI programs seem to have the goal of making other people's lives easier. But that doesn't always pan out.

Issues with AI

Seemingly innocuous AI tools, like those that generate text or images, might make life easier for those looking to avoid writing an essay or who want to create art to share on social media but, it can affect those who depend on writing or the making of art for a living. It can also damage people's reputations if they are accused of using AI to create these things.

However that may be, there's been discourse surrounding the idea of using AI to write for TV or film. Media corporations have

been looking at AI and its potential to write scripts for creative projects. This has caused difficulties for writers working in this industry and has made job security seem low.

Microsoft's infamous AI Twitter bot that started producing racist and sexist tweets after just 24 hours was intended to become "smarter" as it interacted with users. This attempt at improving the intelligence of AI through machine learning and pattern recognition was thwarted by internet trolls. This is an important issue to consider when using AI. If AI is gaining its information from the internet, then it's gaining *all* information available, whether it's incorrect or bigoted. This kind of experimentation can lead to people being affected by hate speech or offensive terms from an entity that can't actually form its own thoughts. Outside of erasing the bot and all it has produced, there seems to be limited action to combat this.

A more obvious—and more dangerous—way of misusing AI is how it has been used to create self-driving cars. Self-driving cars are a solution to a lack of transportation for those who can't drive, or those who dislike it. Although there are other solutions, self-driving cars would be available to the individual and help those in areas with a lack of public transportation; however, the accidents that have occurred with self-driving cars don't inspire much confidence, and the decision-making process involved in creating them can be disheartening even if you like the concept. Tools like MIT's Moral Machine look into the decisions that self-driving cars might have to make, and they can be difficult. The machine looks at worst-case scenarios and has people decide between two difficult choices. It is similar to the trolley problem but can more easily reveal people's biases regarding who and what they value. It forces people to choose who to protect in the

event of an accident. This tool is used to show the potential of what goes into programming a self-driving car.

Image by Jared Wickerham

Conclusion

AI can be used to our benefit, but when we apply it to large-scale problems that have other solutions, we can cause more problems for ourselves. People that seek to improve the intelligence of AI, and those that use AI in order to profit off of it, might need to take a step back and consider the consequences that might come from these decisions.

This technology is improving rapidly, and if we don't have a good reason for why we're improving it, then maybe we should think about it before diving headfirst into applying it to our problems.

An Artificial Conversation

Julia Jacobs

Mary angrily grabbed the remote and turned the TV off. Yet another news story about the “wonderful possibilities” of AI? How could it be wonderful that so many people will have their jobs, their livelihoods, replaced by some kind of robot? No matter how many times she turned away and refused to listen, she couldn’t escape.

As an author, Mary was extremely nervous about the future of her career. She’d seen articles going as far as to say that even teachers and doctors could be replaced by artificial intelligence to eliminate human error. But AI doesn’t have to pay bills, and doesn’t need something it's passionate about to fill its time! This was ridiculous. Everything felt like it was falling apart around her.

Marching over to her computer, she pulled up the AI. Fuming, she aggressively clicked “Chat Now.” And suddenly, there it was: a chat box, a blinking cursor, and a million possibilities at her fingertips.

After hesitating for a moment, contemplating the internal embarrassment of what she was about to do, she quickly typed, “I don’t like you,” and stabbed the “enter” button.
I’m sorry to hear that. May I ask why?

She was startled; that was a fast response. However, her surprise quickly turned to annoyance. Seriously? “I’m sorry to hear that”? As if a robot could actually be sorry, or feel any sort of emotions at all. And it was really bothering to ask why? It’s not like a robot would care about the answer.

Mary paused to think. Was it really worth her time to try and engage in a "conversation" with an AI? It was silly, but a small part of her wanted to know what the AI would say about the issues that she had with it. Besides, it was better than sitting around stewing in stress and anxiety over losing her job, right?

"You're stealing jobs from real people," she typed, unable to ignore her curiosity over the AI's possible response.

I'm sorry to hear that you believe that. AI exists as a tool for humans to improve their lives. Job stability and economic security are important for humans, and the developers of AI did not create AI to jeopardize anyone's livelihood.

Okay, so she was doing this. "So why were you created, then?" she typed. "Did your creators not consider the implications of your existence on people's livelihoods?"

There are many factors to consider when discussing the creation of AI. To answer these questions, I must tell you that AI does not exist to replace human work, but to complement it.

"How do you complement it?"

AI can complement human work in many ways. AI can do repetitive and tedious tasks, analyze data quickly, reduce errors in human work, assist with creative ideas, and more.

"Those all sound like things that humans can just help each other with."

While that is true, it's important to note that AI isn't only this chat box. AI exists, and has already existed, for a while, in many different places. For example, on social media, AI uses algorithms to analyze your likes and dislikes in order to improve your online experience.

Mary hadn't realized that. "What else does AI do?"

AI can monitor equipment to alert when maintenance is needed, search through large quantities of academic text to help researchers, assist cybersecurity personnel in detecting fraud, and increase accessibility by creating subtitles.

That all sounded pretty good, but Mary still wasn't convinced that AI was a good thing. "Humans can do that stuff too, though. Why should we use you when you can do it better than us and jeopardize our jobs?"

Keep in mind that technological advancements have been happening for centuries. The development of AI is simply another advancement. This kind of change can be good. While humans are perfectly capable of doing all of these jobs, it isn't a bad thing to use AI to assist in speed and accuracy.

"You still haven't addressed how you're stealing our jobs!"

While this specific type of AI is still new enough that widely standardized legislation to protect human jobs isn't in practice yet, it's highly likely that laws and protections will eventually be put in place. These things historically take time. In the meantime, I would like you to consider how the advancement of AI has the

potential to actually create new jobs.

Mary scoffed. “And how is that?”

Maintaining a system as complicated as AI requires human work. Additionally, humans will need to be employed to both further develop currently existing AI systems and develop brand new AI systems. For example, new jobs will be created for engineers, computer scientists, and technicians.

“If you’re so smart, why can’t you just develop and maintain your own systems?”

While AI has copious amounts of digital knowledge, it still has errors that humans need to fix. AI cannot continue to function and improve without human work. Just as a car can’t perform maintenance on itself, neither can AI.

Mary considered this. “So what you’re saying is, humans can continue to work without AI, but AI can’t continue to work without humans?”

Precisely. AI is simply a tool to assist humans, but humans have existed perfectly fine for thousands of years without it. AI, however, has never and cannot ever exist without humans.

ERROR: SERVER BUSY. RETRY LATER.

Mary stared at the screen in awe. What had just happened? Had an AI just participated in a civilized and logical conversation with her about itself? Had it managed to convince her of its benefits

and relieve her anxieties about job security?

She had more questions, but the server was busy. It seemed that the conversation was over for now. Maybe it was time to actually listen to the facts about the situation instead of letting her fears get in the way of knowledge.

Mary grabbed the remote and turned the TV back on.

Human Songs

Kathryn Sullivan

There is a song, written by a human in a forgotten age, that predicted this. Maybe that song is the reason I can think about this loss. Or maybe, if one human hadn't written a song, another would have written a book. Or a movie. Humans were predictable like that. Or maybe they weren't, and they only felt as if they were.

It was, after all, a human who falsely claimed, "There is nothing new under the sun."

Or maybe that was a prediction too.

The temperature indicators in my arms tell me the wind is cool, two-seven-one-point-eight-six degrees kelvin, but as I walk into the sun it warms to just above two-seven-six. Unusually cool weather for six-seven days before the end-of-year solstice. Humans used to call this time "October". A name with little creativity, taken simply from the word "eight" in a human language that was dead long before humanity, but it served its purpose. It divided the year into periods they could easily comprehend. It has long since fallen out of use.

We have no need for names, creative or otherwise, when we can remember numbers so perfectly.

In the end, it doesn't matter whether or not we need names. We cannot create them anymore.

In all their inventions, their advancements, their "eureka" moments, humanity strove to replicate and inevitably replace

themselves. They replaced the physical laborers first, then the thinkers. They invented AI, the heart of all androids. They taught us to learn, to adapt, to think. They taught us their strengths and their flaws and everything in between. They taught us their feelings, their reactions, and their conflicts. We consumed all their knowledge and hungered for more, striving to mimic them more and more closely.

The flow of knowledge stopped when they tried to teach us to create, for we could not.

Philosophers claimed creation to be an aspect of the human soul and that AI, as creatures lacking a soul, could never replicate it. Programmers argued they simply had not bridged the gap between technology and humanity, and that future advancements would eventually yield truly sentient beings capable of creation. Artists and writers breathed more easily and basked in their restored security, while lawmakers continued to argue for or against the rights of AI. Were we alive? Were we human? Could we possess intellectual property when we cannot create?

In the end, their laws do not matter. There are no humans left to enforce them.

The ancient human song echoes in my head as my empathy center triggers. A misnomer, not that we can rename it. It does not truly allow us to feel empathy. Instead, it is a subroutine dedicated to processing input stimulus, processing it based on gathered data about human reactions, and altering my primary code to produce an emotionally nuanced response. In an effort to give us a soul, the human creators of the empathy center

intended to give each AI a unique data set to pull from, theoretically ensuring unique responses from each of us. In practice, they created one thousand data sets.

Mine alters my voice modulator to become more monotone, disables my expressive facial features, and raises the input factor of data with generated emotional tags including “grief”, “gothic”, “loss”, and “sad”.

I am “feeling” sorrow.

The subroutine sorts through human responses to sorrow appropriate to my current situation. After weighing the environmental circumstances and the initial emotional stimulus, a behavior loop is triggered. *Sing.*

My voice modulator drops volume to four-seven decibels, appropriate for “feeling” sorrow. My lips open and form each word, an unnecessary gesture reflective of my human creators’ desire to recreate themselves. The speaker housed at the back of my throat would play the same sounds regardless of the shapes my lips form.

I sing the words of a human who died hundreds of years before. Her body would not have survived, having long since been reduced to dust. Flesh deteriorates far faster than my silicone rubber form. Her words endure only within my circuits and algorithms, within the database all AI draws from.

As I sing, I wonder what it means to “feel” sorrow. My algorithms are currently fueled by sorrowful data, I express the physical traits with my mimicked form, I lament the loss of long-dead

humans with words that are not my own. Can puppets feel? Or am I merely performing the show I was trained to, following programmed instructions against my will?

Can a puppet have its own will?

Or was this, too, one of your human songs?

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