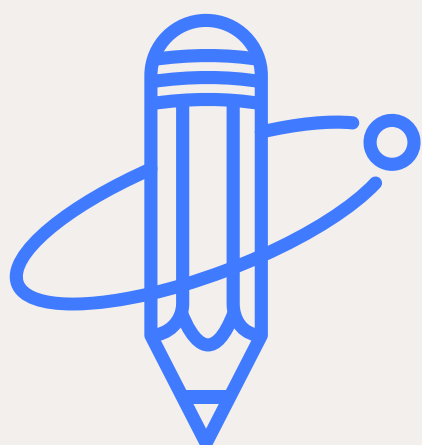# ChatGPT AI
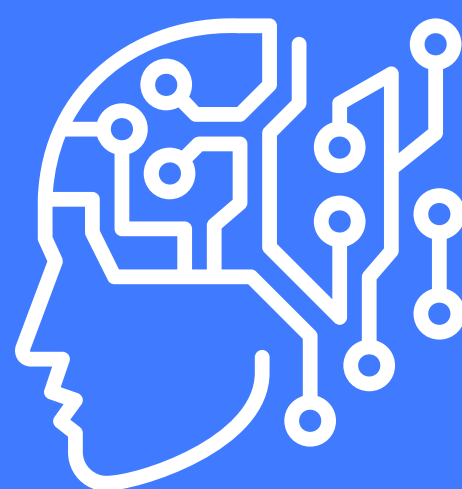
What Educators Need to Know about AI Text Generators

What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is an online tool that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to produce written responses to queries or prompts. For example, it can produce a credible-sounding news story, essay, software code, or even a graduate-level class syllabus.

What are the concerns?

Although the information produced by ChatGPT appears credible—the writing is clean and confident—it may contain factual errors, lack logic, and perpetuate bias. The AI does not, for instance:
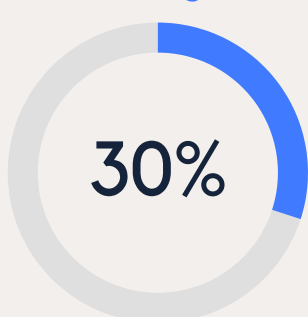
- Cite the sources it uses
- Account for the validity of its sources or responses
- Think critically and evaluate input or evidence
- Identify bias or ethical concerns

Consider student learning outcomes.

Writing is how students learn. It allows students to generate ideas and craft them strategically for a target audience. When students use AI to supplant the writing process, they lose opportunities to gain knowledge, solve problems, assess sources, and become better communicators.

Can we detect AI-written text?

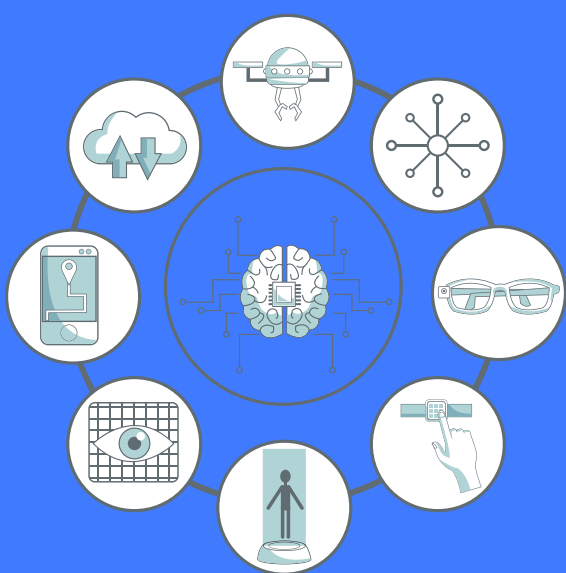**Ippolito et al. findings:**

30%

Even experts trained in AI text detection are fooled more than 30% of the time.

AI-generated writing may have some telling characteristics. For instance, AI text might:

- Contain no citations
- Lack variation in sentence style, length, and cadence
- Overuse common words like "the," "it," and "is"
- Have unusual or inconsistent formatting
- Be cleanly written, but lack logic or make contradictions

Automated tools such as GPTZero can help predict if passages in a piece of writing are AI-generated, though not with full accuracy.

What can educators do?

Talk with your students about proper and improper uses of AI.

To discourage students from using AI to plagiarize, create non-generic, scaffolded assignment prompts that encourage original inquiry and critical thought. Evaluate papers for their logic and argumentation rather than grammar and mechanics.

Embrace the benefits of AI.

Generative AI has many potential uses in the research and writing process, which are being explored by NPS's Generative AI Task Force.

Sources

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- James Vincent, "AI-Generated Answers Temporarily Banned on Coding Q&A Site Stack Overflow," *The Verge*