

Creative Challenge 1: Key Benefits of Writing without AI for Students

Note: This assignment is adapted with permission from Professor Whitney Gregg-Harrison's (University of Rochester).

This creative challenge asks you to reflect on what you gain from writing on your own or from writing in response to school-based prompts and work-based problems without AI.

Part 1 - Read

1. Use Perusall to annotate the following "[Tehnoskeptical Framework - 5 Critical Questions about Technology](#)"
2. Check out its accompanying [Google Doc Summary](#)¹.

Part 2 - Collaborate

Meet in small groups and discuss these questions:

1. Why should aspiring writers ask technoskeptical questions?
2. What does society give up for the benefits of the technology?
3. Who is harmed and who benefits from the technology?
4. What does the technology need?
5. What are the unintended or unexpected changes caused by the technology?
6. Why is it difficult to imagine our world without the technology?

Part 3 - Writing Prompt

Sidney Dobrin, a professor of English at UF, asks in his book "AI & Writing," "If GenAI can produce writing that is good enough in some contexts, can help you more efficiently and effectively respond to writing assignments, can complete many mundane aspects of writing tasks like citation formatting or grammar checking, do we need to continue to teach writing in high schools, colleges, and universities? Should college students be required to take first-year writing, as they have for decades? Has GenAI rendered composition classes obsolete, or in need of a curricular overhaul?"

In response to Dobrin, consider the following questions:

1. Why bother learning how to write well in a world where GAI tools can generate writing that passes as human -- writing that is good enough to pass the LSAT, GRE, Bar Exam.
2. What would we lose if we let large language models (LLMs) do all of our writing for us?

¹Note: these articles are summaries of this extended essay, which is an article for teachers, "[The \(Neil\) Postman Always Rings Twice: 5 Questions on AI and Education](#)."

3. What's special about human writing? What do we gain by the act of writing? Does the act of writing help you develop your thinking, imagination, and ability to communicate. For you, is writing way of learning about topics or even a way of learning about yourself.

Write a short (300-to-400 word) response to the questions above, while considering the [5 Critical Questions about Technology](#) and your conversations with your peers. providing your own perspective on these questions.

Please do not respond in an FAQ format. Rather, write a narrative, a brief essay. Feel free to use the first person. You are not required to integrate/cite sources for this exercise, but if you do so follow APA 7.

Prior to submitting your work, to improve your writing, I encourage you to review the brief articles on [The Elements of Style](#). These are the criteria I'll use to determine whether your response warrants a "complete" or "incomplete": [brevity](#), [clarity](#), [coherence](#), [flow](#), [inclusivity](#), [simplicity](#), and [unity](#). Additionally, when writing this assignment or any other assignment you submit this semester, I encourage you to [design your texts for maximum impact](#) and to [employ a professional writing style](#).

Why? Competition for a reader's attention is becoming exponentially more fierce. Wordy, unclear, abstract, vague texts and ideas buried in long paragraphs and sentences won't work in the knowledge age. Today's readers expect writing to be scannable and to be to the point, typically deductively organized -- well, at least in professional context. Clearly, works of imaginative fiction play by a different rule book/set of conventions.

Requirements

1. Provide the word count on to the top of the page
2. Use the first person
3. Do not use AI
4. Provide an introduction to your brief essay. It's typical to add a thesis statement or main argument in the introduction but you may also follow an inductive structure if you prefer
5. Try to make your essay engaging through techniques like humor, vivid examples, and an entertaining writing style.
6. Use APA 7 when you quote, paraphrase, and summarize sources

Deliverables & Submission Guidelines

1. Upload to Canvas [Creative Challenge #1](#) in .pdf format.