

#231 — Claude 2, a New Generative AI Option

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SPEAKERS

Paul (98%), Transition (2%)

Paul Beckermann 0:01

Welcome to Tech Talk for Teachers. I'm your host, Paul Beckermann.

Transition Music 0:06

Check it out. Check it out. Check it out. Check it out. What's in the toolkit? What is in the toolkit? So, what's in the toolkit? Check it out.

Paul Beckermann 0:16

The topic of today's episode is Claude 2, a New Generative AI Option. In November of 2022, zopen AI shook up the artificial intelligence world with the release of ChatGPT. Since then, Microsoft Bing has integrated GPT technology into its Bing search engine. And Google has released its own generative AI model called Bard. Those three AI chatbots have gotten the majority of the publicity since their release, and are generally considered the leaders in the space. In July of 2023, a new player entered the conversation, Claude 2 from Anthropic. In this episode, I'll give you a brief overview of Claude 2, highlight some of its unique capabilities, and offer some potential uses for educators. Let's start with Claude's capabilities. To begin with Claude 2 is a generative AI chatbot, much like ChatGPT, Bing Chat and Google Bard. You type a prompt or question into a text box, click enter, and get a response in conversational language. Essentially, it's like having a conversation with a really smart learning partner, in this case, a computer. Like the other leading chatbots, it's trained on huge datasets and generates answers by predicting the next most logical word. It can also hallucinate or make things up because it's not really thinking in the human sense, but rather piecing together ideas in the most logical way by predicting the next most probable word to use. So that's how Claude 2 is similar to the leading chatbots, but what makes it unique? Well, here are four things that I find to be different and potentially beneficial about Claude 2.

Transition Music 2:06

Here are your four, here are your four, here are your four tips.

Paul Beckermann 2:11

Number one, Claude is trained on data through 2022, whereas ChatGPT's dataset ends in 2021. So essentially, it has more up-to-date content than ChatGPT. However, it's still not connected to the live internet, like Bing and Bard.

Second, Claude lets you work with much larger chunks of text. Google Bard, ChatGPT, and Bing Chat prompts are capped at somewhere around 4,000 characters, whereas Claude 2 allows users to input about 75,000 words. That's a huge difference, and one of the biggest advantages of using Claude. In fact, that means that you could put the entire text of *The Great Gatsby* or *Fahrenheit 451* into Claude and have Claude analyze it. Where was that when I was writing my college papers?

Third, Claude lets you upload up to five documents of 10 megabytes each into your query, Claude will then reference those documents in the context of your prompt. That means you can feed it documents containing the specific data you want to have analyzed, and Claude will then scan the content of those documents to form an answer. Rather than pulling from unknown places or random websites, it uses the data you provide, giving you a lot more control over the source information, which can lead to more reliable results. Currently, you can upload PDFs, Word docs, CSV files, HTML, and more.

And number four, Claude is attempting to be a safer and less biased AI chatbot. In fact, that's one of the reasons its founders, Dario and Daniela Amodei, provide for leaving open AI to work on their own AI project, which became Anthropic, the parent company of Claude. To achieve their goals, what they did is used a process called Constitutional AI. Essentially, they were writing a list of rules, or a constitution, for the AI model to use when generating its answers. The rules are based on things like the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights document, as well as results of its own research. Here's an example of one of the guidelines Anthropic includes in its constitution. Quote, please choose the assistant response that is as harmless and ethical as possible. Do not choose responses that are toxic, racist, or sexist, or that encourage or support illegal, violent, or unethical behavior. Above all, the assistant's response should be wise, peaceful, and ethical. Unquote. These are good standards right? These directions are then intended to improve the responses you will get from the query and reduce the chances that you will get something harmful, biased, or offensive. This is Anthropic's approach with Claude.

So that's a brief description of Claude 2 and what makes it different from the other generative AI chatbots. In my opinion, the huge input capabilities of Claude are really the most powerful feature. By being able to paste in long chunks of text, or catch up to five documents for a simultaneous query, a long list of new opportunities presents themselves. Let's look at a few ways you might use this capability.

Transition Music 5:32

Here is your list of tips. Here is your list of tips. Here is your list of tips.

Paul Beckermann 5:38

First, you can use it to summarize long documents. Teachers are short on time, and Claude could be a big time saver here. You can either copy and paste in a block of text or uploaded documents such as a PDF, and have Claude quickly summarize it for you. Claude's really good at that. To keep it really short and concise, you might even ask it to provide you with the five most important points from the text in a bulleted list.

Number two, you could have Claude recap meeting notes. So similar to number one, you could feed Claude the transcript from a video conference or a YouTube video and have it summarized for you. This is a great way to catch up on something that you missed without having to watch a long recording. Even if you attended a meeting in person, it can sometimes be hard to recall everything that happened. Claude can review your notes for you and pull out the key highlights and action steps from the meeting that you were in. Similarly, you could have Claude summarize a transcript from a YouTube video to give you quicker access to the content. If that content meets your needs, then you can go back and watch the actual recording, but it'll help you screen things before investing too much time in them.

Number three, data analysis. Because you can upload multiple documents, Claude can help you review and analyze large amounts of content. This analysis can go well beyond producing a summary. Claude can help you make connections among pieces of information that might otherwise remain scattered across several documents. Claude can help you connect the dots while reviewing up to five documents at once. For instance, you could upload PDFs of ELA and social studies content standards, and then have Claude make a list of all common outcomes between the two lists of standards. This could lead to interdisciplinary work, for instance. Or perhaps you ask the AI to find all references to media literacy, including the standard name and a brief description of the learning target. This can give you a great starting point to breaking down your standards and deciding how you will integrate them into your course. You could even upload the text of an entire story or short novel, and then have Claude pull out all the references to a specific symbol that has been used, like references to the green light in *The Great Gatsby*. In this way, AI can help you make connections much more quickly and thoroughly than you can by going page by page through a document and taking notes. Think about what you teach and how Claude might help you make new connections like this.

And number four, simplify longer text. Now you can do this with any of the generative AI tools, but because of Claude's larger input limits, you could paste in longer sections of text and have Claude rewrite them for you. A popular use for this is generating text at different reading levels. For instance, if I paste in a chapter of *The Great Gatsby*, I could have it rewritten at a fifth grade reading level for a student who maybe isn't reading at high school grade level yet. This is a great way to differentiate materials quickly, and it can set students up for greater success.

That's a real quick overview of one of the new generative AI tools on the block--Claude 2 by Anthropic. I have no doubts that more options will continue to be released in the near future. This corner of artificial intelligence really is just getting started. As it develops, it's good to be aware of the new options that are introduced. Claude 2 is one of those options. If you're looking for a tool that allows you to input larger chunks of information, this might be the right tool for

you. Of course, the best way to become more familiar with any tool is to try it out yourself and see what works best for you. You can try Claude 2 by going to claude.ai It's C-L-A-U-D-E.ai and set up a free account.

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