

ChatGPT - Work With It, Not Against It

ChatGPT (Generative Pretrained Transformer) is a form of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that responds to typed prompts with natural-sounding language. The science behind this technology is fascinating, and the results are mind-blowing. While far from perfect, ChatGPT often produces accurate, relevant responses to even complicated prompts.

As educators, we have to be aware of this type of technology, as students are able to access this tool through the internet, either at school or at home, and automatically generate writing that is not their own, but will still fail to trigger any warnings with plagiarism detection tools. While you might be able to detect significant sudden changes in your students' writing styles and abilities, ChatGPT can be used to get pretty far along. This technology is no longer science fiction, and it is only likely to become more and more powerful and accurate. We cannot pretend that this will have no impact on teaching and learning.



You can test out ChatGPT yourself (<https://chat.openai.com/chat>). Once you create an account, or log in with Google, you will be able to learn the strengths and shortcomings of the AI. Once you have a feel for how it works, you may consider utilizing one or more of the following lesson ideas. This list will expand as new ideas are shared.

Prepare for Class

Lesson Plan

You can ask ChatGPT to design a lesson plan on a particular topic, given certain constraints. Use this as a tool to get started or revamp ideas you have used before. For example, you can ask "Can you give me 5 possible Essential Questions that have real-world applications for a Middle School Mathematics lesson on square roots?" and then follow up with possible activities and assessments. You can even ask it to create a rubric for summative assessments. ChatGPT can use concepts like "5 Es" (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) as a structure for building the lesson. Because ChatGPT remembers previous components of the chat, you can continue to dive deeper for each component by referencing other responses.

Generate Prompts

Ask ChatGPT for writing prompts that will be engaging to your students and increase buy-in. Students can also do this themselves, as long as the emphasis is on ChatGPT producing only the prompt, and not the writing sample itself.

In-Class Activities

Student-Teachers

In preparation for class, enter a writing prompt into ChatGPT several times. Share the results with individuals or groups of students. Task your students with editing/grading these writing samples. After examining several different samples, students are asked to produce their own response to the prompt, with the goal of being able to produce a better piece of writing than the original AI work.

Stump the Bot

Students provide teachers with a subject-specific prompt that yields an incorrect answer from ChatGPT. Students then identify and correct the error(s) made by the AI. A further discussion can be had about what makes this a challenging prompt for the system.

Watch Your Tone!

Submit a writing sample into ChatGPT, and ask it to rewrite it in a variety of tones (happy, apathetic, etc.). Students can then discuss the techniques used to convey these tones and identify which approaches are more effective than others.

Ethical Discussion

Use ChatGPT as the basis for a discussion on the ethical implications of AI. When is it acceptable to use AI? What are the dangers of its use in society? What potential benefits does it offer? What are its limitations?

I Just Knew You Were Going To Say That!

Ask students to predict what ChatGPT will generate in response to a particular prompt. This will require students to reflect on what they know about a particular topic and make decisions about which aspects of the material are most important. By evaluating the generated response, students can reexamine their preconceptions about their understanding.