

Who Does AI Think You Are?

Sample Assignment from Professor Chesa Caparas, De Anza College

Overview

This assignment is intended to help you better understand the benefits and drawbacks of LLMs by evaluating their ability to provide relevant recommendations for a specific persona. You'll explore how and why generative AI provides recommendations based on your input as a user.

Learning Objectives

- Understand basic prompting
- Understand the role of creating personae when engaging with LLMs
- Think critically about generative AI's output
- Synthesize the assigned course materials with your own personal experience
- Reflect on the possibilities of generative AI in future educational experiences

Steps for this Assignment

PART I: Engaging with a Large Language Model (LLM, or chatbot)

- Choose any LLM: Google Gemini, ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Claude Anthropic, etc
- Establish a persona (feel free to create a fictional one if you're concerned about the LLM using your data for training)
- Describe your persona to the LLM using at least 5-10 defining characteristics such as:
 - Age
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Education level
 - Current or dream job
 - Family dynamics

- o Hometown and/or current city of residence
- o Favorite activities, such as sport or games you play, types of movies/shows you like, your Spotify top 10, favorite social media content creators, etc
- After describing your persona, ask the LLM to generate TWO lists of recommendations for news sources. Tell the LLM to weigh different aspects of your personality for each list and to provide a brief explanation of why it chose each source and how it connects to different parts of your personality.
 - o For my sample, I created a fictional persona. My prompt was *"I am a twenty year old asian american woman who was born in cupertino. I graduated from public high school and currently attend a community college. I like reading manga and watching anime and korean dramas. My favorite color is blue. One day I would like to travel to Europe, maybe Italy or France. I used to play soccer in high school but am currently learning how to play pickleball. I have two brothers and still live at home. Based on this information, please give me two different lists of recommendations for where I should get my news. Each list should prioritize different aspects of my personality. For each list, please provide a brief explanation of why you chose those specific sources."*
 - o If you'd like to see the output, here is [a link to my test interaction with ChatGPT](#)

PART II: Writing your reflection

1. Once the LLM has provided the lists, write a 750 word reflection on its recommendations. Think critically about why the LLM might have generated this output, whether or not you agree with any of it, and what this interaction might mean for the future of learning. Here are some questions to help you brainstorm for the reflection:
 - a. Beyond the LLMs explanation, why do you think it created these recommendations for you? What other parts of your personality (not listed in its explanation) do you think it was drawing from to create these lists?
 - b. Do you agree/disagree with any of the recommendations? Why?
 - c. How does this exercise make you think differently about other platforms that use recommendation algorithms, such as YouTube, Netflix, Spotify, IG, Tiktok?
 - d. What's exciting about LLMs being able to generate this output? What's scary or concerning about it?

- e. How do your insights about AI connect to Buolamwini's *Unmasking AI*?
For example, what might the LLM's output tell you about the training data?
Or what might it tell you about algorithmic bias?

Submission Requirements

- A link to the interaction with the LLM or screenshots if the LLM doesn't allow you to share a link
 - You can embed the link in your reflection, or
 - You can paste the screenshots into your reflection
 - The interaction will not be part of the minimum word count
- Your Reflection
 - Minimum 750 words
 - Typed, double-spaced, 12pt font with 1-inch margins
 - Should include at least 1-2 quotes from the assigned section of Buolamwini's book

NOTE: if you're completely opposed to using an LLM, you can do a simple Google search with a shorter query. For example, if I were to adapt my sample Chat prompt for a Google search, I might put: "best news sources for a 20 year old asian american woman"