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AI and Writing

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February 2023

What is ChatGPT?

- Large Language Model
- 175 billion parameters
- Human trainers to improve performance
- Generates unique text in response to prompts

ChatGPT Capabilities (for now)

- Chat GPT can:
  - Rephrase language from prompts
  - Generate high-level answers, and be used as a test of "novelty"
  - Draw from open access content freely available on the web
  - Give generic feedback on writing
  - Generate teaching ideas and questions targeted to Bloom's taxonomy

- Chat GPT cannot:
  - Access databases/external websites in real time
  - Draw from discrete, identifiable sources
  - Integrate and analyze original data
  - Create accurate citations
  - Generate personal/reflective writing

- Potentially biased, but may "sanitize" answers or avoid controversial/polarized issues; also, it may struggle with emerging or outlier ideas/findings/theories

- Gives some wrong or fabricated answers, sometimes called "hallucination"

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Four Modes of Response

- Prohibition
- Workaround
- Permission
- Engagement

Prohibition

- Be explicit
- Proceed with caution

Workaround

- Focus on meaning-making, not answer-getting, tasks
- Sequence ("scaffold") assignments
- Assign skill-building activities
- Assign multimodal activities
- Create elaborate contexts
- Integrate peer feedback

Permission

- Allow students to use AI to augment the writing process
- Acknowledge AI's contribution explicitly

Engagement

- Use AI explicitly:
  - Critique answers, compare to grading criteria, use it as a starting point for research
- Writing about AI:
  - Discuss ethics of data use, ecological impact, effects on mis- or disinformation, or other areas of relevance to particular fields
- Contextualize AI in relation to purposes and processes of knowledge building in the field

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Please Answer a Few Questions:
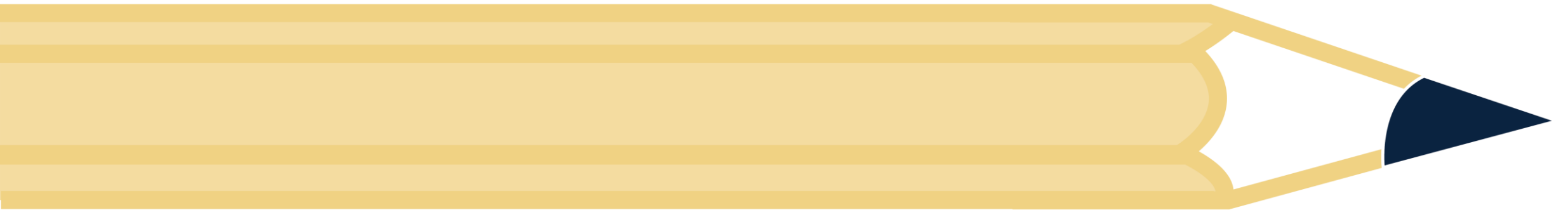
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Cite this resource:

Basgier, C. (2023). *AI and Writing* [Presentation]. University Writing, Auburn University.

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