

# ChatGPT: Pros and Cons

By: Emma Herzog

ChatGPT is essentially an artificial intelligence website that can be prompted with a variety of things, and it will spit back out an explanation, story, essay, etc. This website is fun to play with as you can ask it to tell you things like the top 5 best Bath and Body works candles, tell it to write you a story about unicorns flying in the sky, and so much more. According to Eric Feigl Ding, an American public health scientist, “Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer, commonly called ChatGPT, is a chatbot launched by OpenAI in November 2022. It is built on top of OpenAI's GPT-3 family of large language models, and is fine-tuned with both supervised and reinforcement learning techniques.” Although these features are all fun to mess with, there is no doubt that this newly made website holds some serious concerns for schools, especially for classes relating to English.



Due to the fact that this artificial intelligence page can write about very specific topics, it poses concerns for classes in which you have to write an essay, poem, narrative, etc. “Picture asking Alexa to write one (essay) on the symbolism in *Lord of the Flies* or that analyzes the character or theme of...whoever or whatever they want. And the response, from all reports, can be quite good (or at least passable)” (“What can English teachers do about ChatGPT”). Sometimes, ChatGPT may even be able to outdo what a student may have written on a certain topic. This is concerning because it will only make the student want to use the website even more.

Even though ChatGPT can be used for the wrong reasons, some teachers are trying to focus on the more positive uses of ChatGPT in which it can be used as a helpful resource. “While there is no substitute for your own creativity and invention when creating lessons, ChatGPT can save you lots of time by jump-starting those ideas” (How Teachers Can Use ChatGPT). By using ChatGPT as more of a resource instead of something to completely plagiarize off of, students can gain and learn new ideas that can help contribute to the assignment that they are working on.

*The New York Times* looked into ChatGPT and the consequences that it brings to the table. One concern is that ““ChatGPT has killed homework altogether.” Due to the fact that the information this artificial intelligence website spits out is original, teachers can not catch students who are using it to completely do their work for them. Furthermore, students can type in specific questions on assignments to get an answer, and sometimes, an explanation with it. With this being said, teachers are concerned that

their lesson plans are no longer necessary or helpful to the students. Some teachers have begun asking, “Am I even necessary now?” (*The New York Times*).

With all of this progressing technology, it is getting harder and harder for schools to catch students in the act of cheating, plagiarizing, etc. The rise of artificial intelligence with websites similar to ChatGPT are posing concerns that reach beyond the control of teachers. Due to all of this, it is important to encourage students to use these websites as resources and not as something to copy off of.