

## KEEPING CREATIVITY ALIVE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*by:*

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You might have seen similar instances where people accidentally leave their AI prompts on their ‘work,’ be it on books, articles, or even speeches. The first thing you might think is, “Wow, that’s embarrassing!”. You’re right, it is embarrassing, and in many ways, it’s sad. It seems like some people don’t care about the work they produce anymore. Just what is generative AI doing to human creativity?

The first place to seek answers is school. A school is an educational institution where students are taught to gain skills, knowledge, and habits through a certain curriculum (Murati, 2016). Here, students develop a lot of things they need to survive after graduation—creativity included. Some people may think that creativity is a skill reserved for artistic vocations, but that is simply untrue. Creativity is also needed in science and mathematics, and even blue-collar fields like welding and carpentry. In short, it is in the very essence of a human soul to be creative.

What people don’t realize is how generative AI works. Generative AI relies on statistics. It doesn’t just come up with answers out of thin air. It extracts information out of millions upon millions of files—sometimes without permission from their respective creators—and regurgitates the data into an answer the prompter wants to hear. This is why a lot of teachers can easily tell when their students are submitting AI-generated content. They all sound alike due to homogenization (Liu et al., 2024)

A lot of people believe that generative AI can be used in education. Teachers can use it to create lesson plans and examinations, and students can use it to make

assignments and mock tests, among other things. While this may be true in some ways, we still need to be mindful of the many consequences. Generative AI not only blatantly steals data, but it also obstructs creativity. When people are exposed to too much AI-generated content, they develop a bias which causes their own work to lack variety and originality (Wadinambiarachchi, 2024). Students are at the most risk to this phenomenon because their cognition is still developing at their young age. Not only may lacking creativity affect the decisions they make in school, but it may also affect the important decisions they need to make in the future.

Generative AI isn't going anywhere—it's highly innovative, and it's a rapidly-growing industry. Be that as it may, we still need to be aware of what it's doing to the things that make us human. Students need the guidance of their teachers now more than ever. Teachers need to limit AI use in the classroom and encourage students to explore their skills through activities like writing, drawing, and even debating. Teachers need to reassure their students that it's alright if their outputs aren't perfect. Maybe then, teachers will see less AI prompts accidentally left in by their students on activities.

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