Teaching and Learning Online Foundational Badge Artifact

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Artifact Description

AI Issue Exploration

Artifact

The Assignment:

You will select an issue that your favorite AI tool can discuss with you. You will interview the AI tool of your choice, Chat GPT, Bard, Bing or any other program that simulates knowledge. You can discuss social issues, political topics, or current events with the selected AI tool. After your conversation, you will assess the facts or conjectures that your AI tool gave you through independent verification. This means that you will double-check through reliable news sources any facts presented by the AI tool. You will present the assessment of your AI tool and your topic in a speech to the class.

Just to be fair, when I was doing this assignment in August, Chat GPT wasn't updated beyond 2021 and couldn't answer my questions on the Wagner Mercenary Army. Also, Chat GPT required me to sign up with a username and password. I think the reason why Bard works better for me is the fact that I have a Google Account (no username nor password needed) and it could answer questions about the Wagner Mercenary Group. I haven't tried Bing yet.

Each assignment is graded separately for a total maximum value of 100 pts.

50 pts The piece is presented in class and the student briefly summarizes the issue. The following criteria are met:

There are at least 5 questions and responses over a single topic.

Facts presented are independently verified. At least 2 sources are fully cited in MLA or APA format at the end of the piece.

The student offers a critique of the source. What did you like? Was the information accurate? What did you not like about the AI tool? Anything else that sparks interest concerning the use of AI. Would you recommend the AI tool?

The paper needs to be submitted into Canvas. Include an original title. Your presentation including review, source verification, and critique should be between 450 and 600 words not including header and bibliography.

The speech is your AI Tool and issue review.

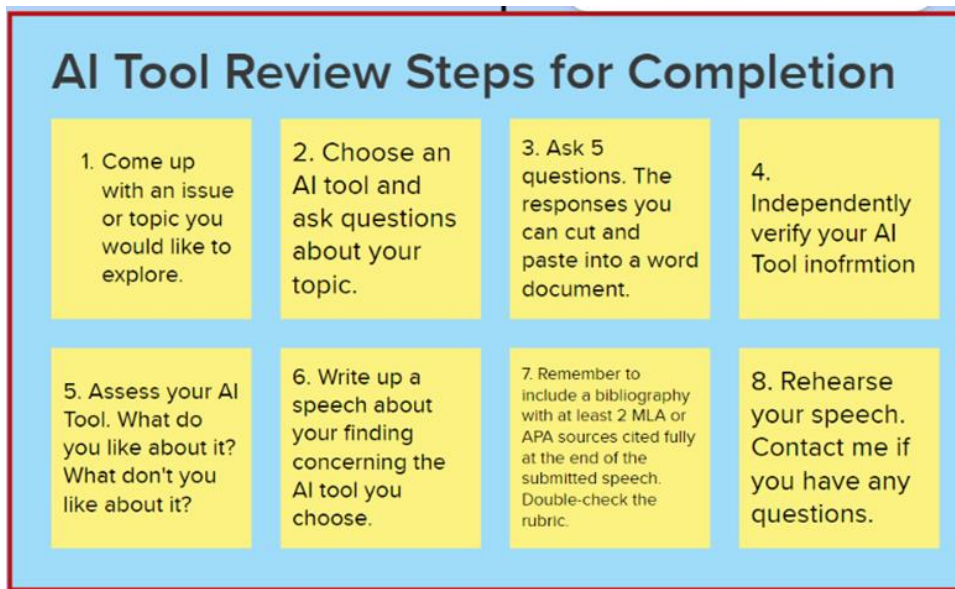44 pts or less: The paper misses one of the above criteria.

39 pts or less: The paper misses more than one of the above criteria.

Speech Rubric

50 pts: The speech explains the AI Tool, the topic, and reviews that points above. It is at least 3 minutes and no more than 6 minutes in length. It has been rehearsed (It's a good idea to speak any paper you write before submitting it).

44 pts or less: The speech misses one of the above criteria.

39 pts or less: The speech misses more than one of the above criteria.

AI Tool Review Steps for Completion

1. Come up with an issue or topic you would like to explore.

2. Choose an AI tool and ask questions about your topic.

3. Ask 5 questions. The responses you can cut and paste into a word document.

4. Independently verify your AI Tool inofrmtion

5. Assess your AI Tool. What do you like about it? What don't you like about it?

6. Write up a speech about your finding concerning the AI tool you choose.

7. Remember to include a bibliography with at least 2 MLA or APA sources cited fully at the end of the submitted speech. Double-check the rubric.

8. Rehearse your speech. Contact me if you have any questions.

I used Mural online sticky notes for this review of the assignment.

Artifact Reflection

AI and the Future of Research in Public Speaking

First of all, the whole concept of teaching online or virtually is antithetical to my core teaching philosophy. So when I looked at the email offering a chance to better integrate technology, including remote teaching, I considered it an opportunity for growth. My teaching beliefs have centered on in-person instruction. I usually model the goal and coach my students to achieve that outcome. Given my hesitation toward adding electronics to the mix of teaching and learning, the last assignment, where a student queries an AI tool of their choice, fully exposes me to a new and exhilarating aspect of education.

Of course, when Chat GPT and other programs like it came up, I was skeptical. However, my skepticism was blinding me to the potential of these tools. I quickly saw the limitations as I asked Chat GPT about the Wagner Mercenary Group, and the response was that it hadn't been updated since July 2021. Conversely, Bard, the Google counterpart, was more up to date. What I learned was that these tools can be useful and convenient. My goal becomes to mesh the convenience of technology with the assiduity of scholarship as the assignment requires students to look and converse with an AI tool over an issue.

This assignment aligns well with speaking on ideas that matter. The students come up with the idea, they converse with their chosen AI tool, they assess the results through documented research, and present a speech on their findings to the class. The thought of bringing the concepts of live presentation on cutting edge technology assures public speaking course outcomes. Students generate the content, I supply the vehicle.

I learned a great deal in doing this assignment. At first, I didn't want to have much to do with AI or technology in general, yet my intention is to enhance my curriculum. The speed at which an AI tool can generate information in paragraph form, tailored to a series of questions is remarkable. The possibility of plagiarism is offset by the fact Turnitin detects artificially generated text. I don't know what lies in the future for me. I would like to assign this artifact to my public speaking class on one hand, but I don't want to encourage the overuse of AI. The dilemma here is that I don't want to end up at the bottom of a pond while trying to reach for the stars.