

# Embracing Artificial Intelligence in Academia

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## Abstract

Artificial intelligence is redefining academia. The free and effective use of online AI such as 'ChatGBT' should be viewed as academia's friend, not their foe. How could cheating possibly be a friend of academia? Those institutions that effectively embrace the technology will advance themselves and their students.

## The AI Threat to Traditional Academia

When students complete tasks there are two main benefits. The student learns or improves their skill level and the educator obtains some information to help evaluate the student's performance. With effective AI both of these benefits could be undermined. The writing and evaluation of papers would seem particularly troublesome. The traditional view may be that this is cheating. How do we detect and punish the cheaters?

Is this a battle that academia will eventually lose as AI continues to improve?

## The AI Benefit to Academia

If we embrace AI there are both ups and downs. Imagine a century ago a debate about motor driven vehicles and horse drawn vehicles. It is possible to argue advantages and disadvantages of each. How do we imagine those who failed to embrace motor driven vehicles fared? Eventually, the same may be true for AI.

Institutions that embrace AI in its early stages stand to improve their relative standing and effectiveness. How could an institution possibly benefit from 'cheating'? We need to rephrase this question. How can an institution use the AI tool to their benefit and to their student's benefit?

The future need of the student's talents may depend on whether they learn to use AI as a tool and not treat it as a competitor. Those institutions that early on help their students harness AI may become the leaders in the future of education.

## **An Example of Embracing Artificial Intelligence**

Instead of tasking students to write a paper on a topic, an enlightened instructor might adopt the following procedure:

1. The instructor first learns how to use AI effectively.
2. The instructor teaches the student how to use AI to augment the assignment.
3. The assignment consists of: the student harnessing AI to write a paper; identification of the AI generated portion of the paper; evaluation and extension of the AI generated paper; and including two new citations, one each in the AI generated paper and in the student's extension.
4. Grading will be based on: the effective use of AI; proper identification of the AI portion; quality of the extension; and proper inclusion of citations.

The use of Artificial Intelligence as an educational tool likely requires much thought and specificity for the subject at hand. Its use may vary considerably from one instructor to the next.

## **Who Would You Choose?**

As an employer would you prefer an employee who could thoroughly and efficiently provide research and advise on a topic; or, would you prefer an employee who only did their own research? It is assumed that full disclosure was made by the employee about AI contributions.

The recruiting of students from various campuses could be greatly affected by the institution's emphasis on the beneficial and ethical use of artificial intelligence. AI should become your friend and not your foe.