

The Write Tool? Exploring the Use of ChatGPT to Improve Student Writing Skills

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What was the need for this study?

Great question - here is the **Introduction / Need for Study**

Generative artificial intelligence (AI):

1. 🌱 Continues to increase in popularity and acceptability (Hu, 2022)
2. 😬 Predicted to revolutionize the workplace (Horáková et al., 2017)
3. 📚 May serve as a valuable educational resource by:
 - 🧑‍🏫 Lessening grading fatigue for educators (Gurugn et al., 2022)
 - ✅ Adding impactful learning experiences for students (Loeckx, 2016)
 - 🖋️ Improving writing in educational settings (Hosseini et al., 2023)

Writing skills are important for college graduates 🎓 (Ahrens et al., 2016)

1. 🆘 Research has shown students face challenges when it comes to writing skills, confidence, and self-efficacy (Fischer & Meyers, 2018)
2. 📄 Students need diverse assignments to improve writing (Lawson et al., 2021)

Given the prevalence of generative AI use and the challenges students face in with writing skills, an activity was designed for agricultural communication students to **edit their own work** using ChatGPT.

Do you have any more questions about the study?

How was ChatGPT used as a classroom activity?

Here's **How it Works**

Students enrolled in a feature writing course were instructed to use ChatGPT to help edit one of their main feature stories prior to submission ✍️

1. 📖 During class, instructor demonstrated the activity using an example writing piece
2. 📄 Students entered prompts that aimed to check the writing for issues with **grammar, spelling, punctuation, and AP style**.
3. 🔍 After each output, students compared the results to their submission, determined their validity, and thoughtfully decided what to use
4. 📁 Once edits were integrated, students uploaded their revised story to be graded
5. 🗨️ Finally, students reflected on this experience to capture their reactions to using ChatGPT to help with writing assignments

What else would you like to know?

What were the results of the activity?

That's important - Here are the **Results to Date / Implications**

Here's what the 15 students who participated thought:

1. 🛠️ "Useful tool" for refining writing and finding simple mistakes
 - 😊 Reduced time spent combing for minor edits, allowed students to spend more time on technical needs
2. 😬 Raised concerns with some suggestions and increased AI use
 - 🧐 Necessary to understand of proper grammar, punctuation, and AP style to ensure suggested changes were appropriate
 - 😬 Concerned about depending on AI for grammar and AP style knowledge instead of learning it

Here's what the instructor thought:

1. 🌟 Improved the overall quality of submissions
2. 🕒 Felt less time and effort was needed to correct technical errors
3. 🗨️ Allowed more time to provide feedback on other elements
 - 📄 More time spent evaluating overall story structure, transitions, tone, or need for additional supporting information
4. 📁 Activity was a unique, easy, and impactful way to explore how generative AI tools can be used for writing

Is there anything else you would like to know?

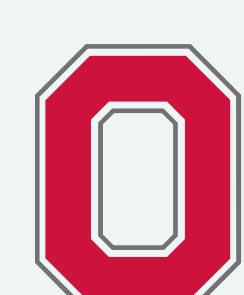
How should others implement this activity?

Here's a breakdown of **Future Plans & Advice to Others**

As generative AI becomes more common in academia and the workplace, here are some considerations for classroom integration

1. ⚠️ Advice for navigating generative AI and academic assignments:
 - 🗨️ Cultivate honest and open classroom spaces to talk about how to use generative AI tools together
 - 📄 Develop best practices and expectations when using AI to improve writing skills and self-efficacy
2. 🗨️ Advice for integrating AI-based activities:
 - 📄 Take time to carefully outline the activity's purpose
 - 🧑‍🏫 Provide class time to conduct the activity to allow for questions to be asked for the benefit of all
 - 🗨️ Conduct open discussions with students about proper and improper AI usage, and how to evaluate AI outputs
 - 🕒 Set aside time for careful planning of the activity and ensure students have equal access to generative AI tools

Good luck integrating this activity in your classrooms! 🎉 🎓 🌟



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Abstract & References