

Teaching Innovations that Embrace ChatGPT

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1/26/2023

Sample Classroom Exercises

Critical thinking- Analyzing the accuracy of ChatGPT responses

Purpose: This in-class exercise encourages students to apply their learning in a subject area by critically examining the accuracy of a ChatGPT “answer”.

Steps:

1. Prior to class, ask ChatGPT a question (or series of questions) related to your topic. For example, in a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) practice course, I input prompts such as “What is CBT?” and “What are the main criticisms of CBT?”. Have these printed or saved electronically to distribute to students.
2. In class, give a brief overview of ChatGPT to set the stage.
3. Alternative to pre-selecting ChatGPT responses for students to review, you can take student suggestions about what questions to ask it and do this “live”, adding another element of engagement. However, the server is often full to capacity to have a back up ready!
4. Arrange students in groups
5. Provide each group with a ChatGPT-generated short essay on the topic.
6. Ask groups to:
 - a. Identify what elements of the response are correct. What is accurate?
 - i. Why? How do they know? Ask them to provide empirical sources to support their assertions of factual elements of the response
 - b. Identify if anything in the statement is incorrect or misleading?
 - i. Again, support with evidence from the literature
 - c. Ask them to share what else they would add to the answer (e.g., “If you had to write three more sentences to add additional detail, what else would you include?”)
7. Groups share out
8. Groups submit their notes to the instructor
9. Optional: Submit the student “feedback” directly to ChatGPT using the thumbs up/thumbs down feature. This provides insights to the AI tool to generate more accurate answers in the future, and you can share with students that they contributed to the knowledge base!

Role Play*

**Thanks to Mike Bennett for helping to inspire this idea*

Purpose: Students practice client interaction skills with ChatGPT as their role play partner.

Steps:

1. Note that live access to ChatGPT is required for this class exercise
2. Project ChatGPT onto a screen for students to view
3. Enter a prompt directing ChatGPT to play the role of a client relevant to your teaching area. For example,
 - a. "Imagine I am a therapist and you are a client. This is the first session. Please start by telling me what brought you in today?"
 - b. "Let's say I am a nurse and this is a telehealth visit with a new patient. Briefly describe your symptoms."
 - c. "Play the role of an angry customer. Start by initiating a complaint to an operator of a live online chat with customer service"
4. Ask the class to determine what you (the therapist, nurse, customer service rep, etc.) should say next. ChatGPT will continue this live role play, with you asking students how to respond and providing feedback or instruction as you proceed.
 - a. For example, in my Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) class, after hearing the client's concerns, the class decided the next step would be to ask a follow up question. I also raised the point that perhaps we should first demonstrate empathy or reflect on what the client has said, before inquiring further.

Ideas for student use

Please note that all ideas presented should be coupled with instructor guidance about appropriate use of AI for their particular course.

Technical Writing Assistance

Students can input a writing sample to get feedback on grammar and other elements of writing, similar to tools like Grammarly.

Language Translation

ChatGPT can be used like Google Translate to help students for whom English is a second language.

Concise Topic Overview

Students can use ChatGPT to generate a concise and basic summary of complex concepts. For example, you can provide feedback about a response like "Rephrase this summary so that a child would understand it".

Lecture Q&A Supplement

Imagine a shy student who feels anxiety about asking questions in a large lecture hall. If elements of live lecture are unclear, the student can use ChatGPT as a faster alternative to Google to search acronyms or give a refresher on content without interrupting class (or if time does not permit for questions, etc.).

“Digital Muse”- Idea Generation

ChatGPT can give a starting point for further research/study. It could help students get out of writer’s block by generating ideas which they make their own.

Ideas for faculty use

“Coauthor” case studies with ChatGPT

ChatGPT can be directed to write case studies, which can then be used for discussion or writing assignments. Example prompts:

- Generate a detailed case study about a fictitious therapy client who has depression, including their demographics and background, current circumstances, presenting problems, and strengths
- Write a business case study about a fictitious business, which illustrates the underlying lessons of...[your lesson goal]
- Create a comprehensive case scenario of a patient who presents with Alzheimer’s disease
- Write a fictitious case study for use among public health students about a new disease that emerges. Include...[xyz elements]

Brainstorm Creative Teaching Approaches

ChatGPT can provide ideas for engaging classroom activities or lecture examples. Example prompts:

- Give me some ideas for classroom exercises to demonstrate the Pareto Principle
- Provide some metaphors to help explain osmosis
- Write 5 scenarios that represent an ethical dilemma in the delivery of hospice care, for use in student discussion

Generate Creative “Hooks”

Start your class with a bang by asking ChatGPT to represent information in a creative or funny way.

Example prompts:

- Write a Dr. Seuss-style rhyming poem to explain what an ANOVA is in statistics
- Rewrite the Goldilocks story with an ending where an architect designs the house to meet LEED certification standards
- Write a rap song about balance sheets in accounting

Creating step by step activity directions*

**Thanks to Peggy Semingson for sharing this idea*

Harness ChatGPT as a starting point to help you break down directions for a class activity into simple steps.

Provide ideas for learning assessments

ChatGPT could be used as an inspiration/ starting point in writing exam questions or coming up with discussion board prompts.