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Universities Take Hard Line on ChatGPT

Educators are drawing the line on how ChatGPT should be used by students by using software to detect answers created by artificial intelligence.

ChatGPT can help create answers to prompts by reciting information from the web but fails to list sources.

According to Helen Nicholson, the Vice Chancellor of University of Otago, some universities are using GPTZero, an AI tool, to detect plagiarism.

Students share their frustrations as these actions are being taken to ensure academic integrity,

“I have used it, my friends have used it. If the lecturers cannot tell the difference why should we be forced to learn things that ChatGPT can recall for us so easily?”

“If I’ve successfully used this program to help me answer a question, why should I be punished? Technology is here to help us.”

Using the technology to simply recall information for assignments is not helping education, instead it’s harming the field.

Experts on AI have mixed feelings on the use of ChatGPT.

“We hope these tools will ultimately make us more productive, help us write less emails, and embrace a future where everyone is empowered by technology,” said Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI.

AI ethicist Timnit Gebru disagrees with the consumption of AI in academic settings, “The business model for ChatGPT will rely on the idea that this is better than a search engine. In the attempt to appear intelligent and in search of profit this technology will leave us less informed.”

“Technology companies like Google, Microsoft and OpenAI like to market their products as intelligent or capable of writing college essays because they are trying to takeover education as a new market. It has nothing to do with the pursuit of knowledge.”

Although ChatGPT seems like an easy alternative to completing schoolwork, students should be aware of the risks.

Carol Mutch, a professor at the University of Auckland expresses her thoughts on the subject, “We have entered a technological arms race around new forms of plagiarism and how to detect it. A not insignificant amount of students use digital tools to simulate learning or plagiarise assignments and academics have become distrustful of their students. It is a toxic mix.”

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Other attempts to crack down on AI usage in classwork are assessments being changed to in-person activities and to be done in groups.

While AI generating emails, images, and music might come in handy, one thing is for certain for those in education: ChatGPT is under a watchful eye.