



Stetson's English Department Newsletter

The Potential Impact of ChatGPT on English Majors

BY CHATGPT4, AUGUST 19, 2023

ChatGPT4 prompt: Please write an article concerning the potential impact of ChatGPT on English majors. The article should be approximately 500 words.

In the realm of language and communication, the inception of artificial intelligence, particularly models like ChatGPT, has taken center stage in recent discussions. As powerful AI tools encroach upon literary fields, English majors around the world may be wondering: what implications does this technological leap have for our studies, and our future careers? The potential impacts range from novel opportunities to deep philosophical questions about creativity and originality.

*1. The Upskilling Imperative
One clear impact is the necessity for upskilling. While English majors have traditionally honed skills in reading, writing, analysis, and communication, the presence of tools like ChatGPT might necessitate*

adding digital literacy to this toolkit. A solid understanding of AI's capabilities and limitations can position English graduates as experts who can combine the strengths of both human intuition and machine computation. An English major with AI proficiency might find unique roles in fields such as content creation, marketing, or even tech industries, bridging the gap between technology and human language.

*2. Augmented Creativity
Instead of viewing ChatGPT as a rival, English majors can see it as a creative ally. ChatGPT can be utilized as a brainstorming tool, aiding writers in generating ideas, or even proofreading. Picture a scenario where a writer is facing the notorious writer's block. A conversation with ChatGPT might yield a new perspective or approach to a topic, amplifying the writer's creative process. The key is*

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

KINNEY

A Passage To India

FORSTER

Rich Dad Poor Dad

KIYOSAKI

The Vanishing Half

BENNET

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

COVEY

Greenlights

McCONAUGHEY

The Naked Roommate

COHEN

The Scribe was written collaboratively with technical writing students from ENGL 206, Spring 2023. The photos included are intended to embody wabi-sabi aesthetics and were taken by students on campus (<https://www.hermitary.com/solitude/wabisabi.html>). This issue continues with the Scribe's focus on the importance of reading and writing well.

symbiosis: AI tools can augment human creativity without replacing it.

3. Ethical Implications and Authenticity

As AI becomes more adept at generating text, concerns around authenticity arise. How can readers differentiate between human-penned and AI-generated content? And what does it mean for the value we place on human creativity? English majors, equipped with critical thinking skills, can lead conversations around the ethics of AI in content creation. This includes transparency in AI-generated content, the potential for AI to perpetuate biases, and the value of human touch in literature and journalism.

4. The Evolution of Literary Analysis

The vast amount of data that ChatGPT is trained on includes literature from various eras and genres. This can potentially offer fresh lenses for literary analysis. Imagine feeding an AI like ChatGPT a Shakespearean play and asking it to generate content in a similar style but with a modern twist. Analyzing such output might provide insights into both into both Shakespeare's enduring influence and modern adaptations of classic themes.

5. Job Market Dynamics

The most immediate concern for many is employability. While AI can

generate vast amounts of content quickly, there remains a distinct difference between content production and genuine communication. English majors specialize in the latter, understanding the nuances, contexts, and emotions that drive effective communication. While certain jobs, such as basic content generation, might see a decline, roles emphasizing strategy, empathy, and creativity are less susceptible to automation.

In conclusion, the rise of ChatGPT and similar models presents a double-edged sword for English majors. On one hand, there is the undeniable opportunity to collaborate with AI, leveraging its capabilities to enhance human creativity and analysis. On the other, there is the challenge of navigating an evolving job market and asserting the unique value of human intuition and creativity. Embracing change, continually upskilling, and leading conversations around the ethics and authenticity of AI-generated content can ensure that English majors remain not only relevant but indispensable in the AI age.

WHY BECOME AN ENGLISH MAJOR?

Majoring in English is finding a place among your peers, your idols, and your thoughts to call home. —Sarah Wasser

There is no career in which you will not have writing. Being able to analyze and articulate your own thoughts into words is the most valuable asset of communication and teamwork. It is surprising how poorly some people write and holding a firm grasp of the English language puts you at the skill level above the rest. —Xavier Mulligan

Language itself serves a grand purpose: Communication. As an English major, or minor, one gains a profound understanding for articulation that will aid her the rest of her life, regardless of workplace. —Allison Spaccio

Sigma Tau Delta at Stetson

Sigma Tau Delta is a national Collegiate English Honor Society. If you have immense dedication and a passion for literature, you too can join the 9,000 inducted members since 1924. Once inducted into this prestigious organization, members can publish academic and literary works in the society's annual undergraduate journal, *Sigma Tau Delta Review*.



Stetson University's English Department guides each individual Sigma Tau Delta member



through an educational journey, filled with the totality of enlightenment that the study of English provides.

After completing their undergraduate career, (seen below, left to right) Caroline Williams, Nicole Padgett, Victoria Aldea, and Chyina Powell, proudly wear Sigma Tau Delta's vibrant red graduation stole and medallion.

This student-run organization is facilitated by the faculty advisor, Dr. Chesya Burke. Currently, we are interested in forming a book-club, and offering an informational session for academically qualified students majoring or minoring in English studies. If you become involved, you will have the opportunity to take charge of the organization and lead current and future students toward English-centered careers.

Our induction ceremony, where new members receive the Society's certificate and pin, is held each fall. Graduating seniors are authorized to wear special regalia at commencement.



English Department Faculty

Chesya Burke, PhD, University of Florida

<https://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/chesya-burke.php>

Nancy Barber, M.F.A., University of Florida

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/nancy-barber.php>

Michael Barnes, Ph.D., University of South Carolina

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/michael-barnes.php>

Joel Davis, Ph.D., University of Oregon

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/joel-davis.php>

Nicole Denner, Ph.D., Northwestern University

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/nicole-denner.php>

Leigh Ann Dunning, Ph.D., M.F.A., University of Memphis

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/leigh-ann-dunning.php>

Chris Jimenez, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/chris-jimenez.php>

Hannah Markley, Ph.D., Emory University

<https://hannahmarkley.com>

Megan O'Neill, Ph.D., University of New Mexico

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/megan-oneill.php>

Michele Randall, M.F.A., New England College

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/michele-randall.php>

Lori Snook, Ph.D., University of Arizona

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/lori-snook.php>

Terri Witek, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

<http://www.stetson.edu/other/faculty/profiles/therese-witek.php>

Grady Ballenger, Professor Emeritus



Flagler Hall and the Stetson Hat

TALK ABOUT TALK

M.C.Barnes



I recently gave a presentation at Daytona State College on ChatGPT that tested whether it could pass my first-year seminar class. The assignments are idiosyncratic and difficult to plagiarize. For example, you have to design an intentional community, promote Daytona Beach as a spring break destination via a billboard promotion, and write a short horror story (500 words maximum) that either emulates Poe (iceberg theory) or Lovecraft (cosmic horror). Although the AI refused to do one assignment for ethical reasons - write an invective of Mother Theresa or an encomium of traffic - it would have certainly received an "A" in the course. Here are two samples of it's responses to the course assignments.

NE

Please write one sentence that describes Halloween using the style of Cicero's scheme called amplification,



Halloween, the spookiest night of the year, when the veil between the living and the dead is at its thinnest, and the night air is filled with the eerie cackle of witches and the ominous howl of werewolves.

NE

Please write a description of Daytona Beach that uses the rhetorical style called parataxis (e.g. short sentences that imply deeper meaning). The description should be about 150 words.



Sun-kissed sand. Azure sea. Thrilling waves. Glittering nightlife. Festive crowds. Tourists, locals. A place of contrasts, a place of convergence. Familiar and unpredictable. Loud and peaceful. A town of fun and relaxation. A place of endless summer. A place of dreams. Daytona Beach.

The Art of Letter Writing

The art of letter writing has evaporated in the face of speedy communication. Based upon the classical tradition, there are three styles associated with letter writing: low (meant to instruct), middle (meant to please), and high (meant to move). The following letter, from a student in ENGL 220 (Composition and Rhetoric), is "high style" and intended to move the reader to action. The links below offer elaboration on these stylistic approaches to letter writing:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/middle-style-rhetoric-term-1691389>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/grand-style-rhetoric-1690915>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/plain-style-prose-1691632>

Open Letter to the Creators at Open AI (High Style)

Skye Merritt

24, April 2023

There has been so much buzz about a new AI called ChatGPT between my classes and colleagues and I'm writing to you today about how not only will this create a simple-minded society of zombies that used to be students but will be the overall downfall of society. I understand this started as a harmless helpful online bot, but used incorrectly, the chatbot will be the direct cause of students graduating college with no actual knowledge.

Allowing students to put in a set of directions into an artificial intelligence website and have it produce an essay takes away all individuality of an assignment. The student doesn't learn anything from the given material and is able to complete the assignment without putting in any effort. This rips the quality of knowledge out of the student's hand and ruins their chance of education. Being able to turn in an essay they know nothing about only benefits the deadline of the essay. Having this tool available to students makes procrastination and cheating easier.

The creative piece of a paper is very important as that is the reflection of the individuality of the student. Using AI to write papers takes their individual experience and what they know about writing an essay and throwing it away. The student is no longer able to add their personal knowledge and their unique perspective on the topic because that is replaced by a generated answer that an online robot came up with.

I agree there is a user error side of this, but the availability of it is a problem. Students and their parents spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a college education, and using ChatGPT is wasting their time and money on a degree when they're not actually learning anything because a website is writing their essays. Having an available tool such as this facilitates laziness and will create zombie minded students. At first, they may use

ChatGPT for a thesis statement idea, or an opening sentence prompt when they're struggling to start an essay, but this could easily result in using it to write their full essays. In fact, this is already a problem I've heard of students at my own school experiencing. Personal responsibility is a huge part of this but having this technology just at our fingertips makes the temptation overwhelming, especially for new adults that are still navigating the world they just jumped into.

Elon Musk, a co-founder of Open AI, the ones responsible for ChatGPT even said, "One of the biggest risks to the future of civilization is AI" during the World Government Summit in Dubai. When speaking on regulation he also states that it "may slow down AI a little bit, but I think that might also be a good thing". Elon Musk left the board of OpenAI in 2018. He doesn't hold any stakes in the company as well. This shows that a famous figure everyone knows and was part of the making of this agrees that this should take a step back.

Overall, ChatGPT is not just an online essay generator, but the party responsible for the coming downfall of student's education. This technology allows the abolishment of personal creativity and responsibility of uprising adults. The next generation of adults will rely on an online robot for any idea produced, which will create a robotic society and an unproductive one at that. The lack of motivation and individual responsibility will be the end of civilization as we know it. ChatGPT needs to take these concerns seriously and limit what the program is able to do in order to avoid these issues.



YOUR FUTURE READING LIST

(Courtesy of the Students from Technical Writing)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Kinney), Isaac Rappaport

I'll start with a disclaimer: I am not the kind of person who can sit down and get wrapped up in a book. I would describe myself as a very visual person that would prefer to play video games on my laptop or one of my consoles than pick up a book. I can't bring myself to stare at pages with pages packed with tiny texts, which is the kind of books society expects people my age to read. But when I'm in the mood for a nostalgia trip, the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series will always be my go-to. Author Jeff Kinney made the graphic novel format mainstream. The books are filled with jokes ranging from prop comedy, like when the lazy older brother Rodrick mistook a safe for a microwave in "The Long Haul," to toilet humor, like when the main character Greg referred to 5-year-old neighborhood terror as "Nasty Pants" in "Cabin Fever," which reminds of the COVID lock down in a twisted way.

A Passage to India (Forster), Mark Into

A Passage To India is a great read about the relationship of humankind and finding personal connections to people that are considerably different from yourself. It showcases the relationship between an Indian and Englishman, presenting the friendship, disparity, and struggle between the two races. The characters are captivating; their journey is an easy but interesting one to follow. In today's world of racial tensions, it provides one aspect of thinking that many wouldn't come across. This book is a highly recommended read, and if sitting down and reading isn't your thing, try audible. The audible version of *A Passage To India* performed by Vikas Adam is highly entertaining, and something to pass the time while extremely bored.

Rich Dad Poor Dad (Kiyosaki), Devan Schaepe

Rich Dad Poor Dad, written by Robert T. Kiyosaki, highlights the life of two different families and their differences in raising their children. It highlights how a wealthy family raises their kids, vs how a high school dropout's family raises their kid. This book shows how important financial freedom is, and the wisdom passed down from the wealthy father to his kids is deemed an invaluable type of lesson. This

book is great for financially interested or inclined students and teaches how to gain more wisdom regarding finances. There are many lessons highlighted throughout the book. My favorite is the way the rich dad describes a working-class person that is wealthy and is still working and doing things for someone else. This book is great because it shows how rich families stay rich, as wealthy parents teach their children how to remain wealthy. There is a lot of great insight throughout this book, with many lessons taught.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (Covey), Dylan Cartwright

I encourage all freshmen to read *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey. Whether you're trying to develop a new skill, learn a new trade, or further your education, it is always a good idea to have a game plan on what you need to do in order to achieve those goals. Most people fail due to two things: not having a plan, and not knowing what to do. This book gives you great tips on not only how to achieve your ambitions, but intuitive suggestions on how to live a successful life. The seven categories of this book are as follows: Principles of Personal Vision, beginning with an end in mind; Principles of Personal Leadership, becoming a leader; Principles of Personal Management, putting things first; Principles of Interpersonal Leadership, thinking Win-Win; Principles of Empathy, seeking first to understand rather than to be understood; Principles of Creative Cooperation, learning collaboration; and Principles of Balanced Self-renewal, renewing yourself. When looking at these seven topics, I see not only how to function in a team (Leadership and Empathy,) I also see where one can learn to be efficient and develop personal growth (Personal Management and Personal Leadership.)

Greenlights (McConaughey), Lucas Klotz

This is a truly inspiring and eye-opening book with true events from Matthew McConaughey's life and his journey through it so far. As he takes you through his life experiences it makes you really think about your own life and the amount of different opportunities there are in every experience you have. It makes you reconsider each experience you had that you thought was a rough patch in your life as a learning experience or has he says a "Greenlight." He makes you look from both perspectives on each situation and breaks down how every day in life is a new page and a fresh start to new opportunities. As he takes you through his life journeys, he really makes you feel as if he can overcome these tragedies in his life and grow from them; anyone can, you just need to find the "Greenlight" in each situation.

The Naked Roommate (Cohen), Dylan S Cartwright

A great crash course on how to “do” college is in the book *The Naked Roommate* by Harlan Cohen. Not many books out there will enlighten you on all the challenges you may face in college. There are many taboo subjects in this book that you normally would have better luck finding advice on reddit from. This book goes into various topics, from how to live with a stranger that you do not get along with, all the way to the do’s and don’ts of relationships. In college, we are young adults; we are all experiencing new mediums of knowledge and experiences. It is important that you know how to navigate these experiences without finding yourself in a hole. This book lays out not only academic advice but also for intimate and personal relationships. *The Naked Roommate* may have a clichéd name; however it truly goes into the taboo subjects of peer pressure, whether it be from narcotics to toxic relationships. It is important that we realize why we are actually in college. We are here to get a degree at the end of the day, and every other experience is just a journey to shape you into the person you will be at the end of your four years.

The Vanishing Half (Bennett), Jayda Precil

A great book is something that can give readers the opportunity to grow their curiosities and keenness as they absorb the material they are being subjected to. Specifically, *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett did just that, particularly for me for a multitude of reasons why. Throughout the novel, I felt a large attachment to each of the characters and the shocking plot. The storyline of the book was about two twins named Desiree and Stella from a small town in Louisiana called Mallard. Everyone from this particular town is African American, but they all have a light complexion.



The people that live in Mallard all glorify their light skin since it has a history behind it. Eventually, after both twins settle on running away from home, Stella decides to leave her beloved sister behind and use the color of her skin to her advantage to pass as a white woman in the time period of the 1960s in America. The novel describes events that happened in each of the twins’ existence throughout their teenage years and adulthood. As the book unfolds when the twins are adults, it depicts the challenges that came along from the choices that both of them made and how they impacted their children from their haunting pasts. Without a doubt, this piece of literature is a book that you will not be able to put down! Bennett did an exceptional job at creating a story with a purpose for its audience, and the publication truly portrays the harsh realities from back in the day when light-complexioned African Americans thought it would be easier to live a life as white.



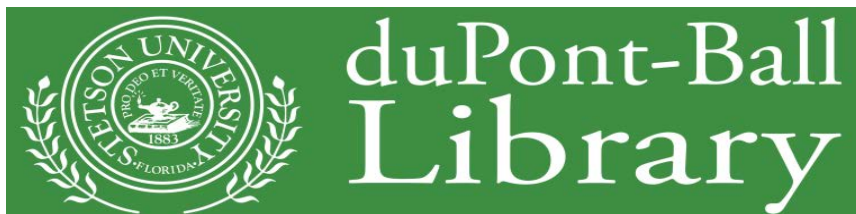
Hatter Network

Affiliated with *Touchstone*, Uncouth Hour is a weekly open-mic event in which Stetson University's community of artists are afforded the opportunity to share their work with others in an environment conducive to literature and the arts.

Uncouth Hour is now CoRadio, a pandemic friendly rendition of Touchstone's popular Cultural Credit event. It is an online "open-mic night" (from 9:30-10:30pm on Thursday nights).

The Reporter is Florida's oldest collegiate publication. Our job is to keep the Stetson University and the DeLand communities updated on news and events and to give students and faculty alike a voice. You can contact *The Reporter* at reporter@stetson.edu.

Touchstone is Stetson University's annual literary magazine; it functions as a vehicle for student expression, publishing original pieces of fine art, literature, music, digital media and performance art regardless of the author's major, class, standing or academic experience. *Touchstone* prints the best of student submissions, decided by committee; special recognition may be awarded to students whose work in their genre is deemed exceptional by the editing team.



Calendar & Hours

Hours of Operation

DAYS	HOURS
Monday to Thursday	8 AM -12 AM
Friday	8 AM – 6 PM
Saturday	10 AM – 6 PM
Sunday	11 AM -12 AM

Research assistance hours differ from the building operating hours. For research assistance business hours, see [Ask A Librarian](#).

Special Openings & Closings

DATE	SPECIAL HOURS
	Fall Library Hours
	Monday – Thursday: 8 AM to 12 AM
	Friday: 8 AM to 6 PM
Saturday, 19 August to Friday, 15 December	Saturday: 10 AM to 6 PM
	Sunday: 11 AM to 12 AM

