

AI AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD



BrianPenny94/Fixaboy.com

Artificial Intelligence, also known as “AI,” is a form of advanced software that enables machines or computers to simulate human intelligence. A chatbot is a specific type of AI program that mimics human conversation. One well-known example is ChatGPT. Humans develop chatbots using programmed algorithms (coded steps) that can operate faster and more efficiently than humans. AI chatbots have shown beneficial and potentially harmful effects. Some developers aim to build chatbots that will someday be smarter than humans, but others doubt that can happen.

What is ‘Generative AI’?

Automated machines go back to ancient times. For example, the ancient water clock measured time with regular drips of water. In modern times, the Industrial Revolution (starting in the 1700s) and electricity (during the 20th century) altered human lives forever with a vast array of machines. Today, robots (1960s), personal computers (1990s), the internet (2000s), and now chatbots are part of our Digital Age. Historically, automation has often resulted in the loss of existing jobs. But today, new technologies are both eliminating and creating jobs.

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) is a chatbot. It was developed by OpenAI, a company founded by Sam Altman and Elon Musk. It exploded on the technology scene upon its release in 2022-23 and set off a race for chatbot development by Google, Meta, Microsoft, and others. Musk eventually went a separate way to focus on his AI-enabled Tesla cars. Altman developed OpenAI with major funding from Microsoft.

So-called “chatbot training” occurs when programmers develop chatbots to rapidly learn massive amounts of existing data, mainly from the internet. This is also called “machine learning.” Chatbots are capable of seeking out patterns in the data and generating new content faster and more efficiently than humans.

Generative AI is what ChatGPT and other chatbots can currently produce. When users ask a question or provide a prompt, generative AI can produce essays, reports, articles, books, stories, history, poetry, images, videos, speech, music, art, and predictions. AI can also change writing to a picture, video, music, and computer code.

Is generative AI creative? Not quite. It does not generate content out of nothing, but rather depends on and is limited by its machine learning. Generative AI mimics human intelligence but cannot think like humans, at least not yet.

Psychologists have identified a number of mental activities that are involved in human brain intelligence such as learning, reasoning, understanding, seeing relationships, and separating fact from opinion. Currently, AI cannot fully duplicate these human-intelligence mental activities. AI mimics the human brain with its trillions of neural connections but is not more intelligent.

AI is not sentient, meaning it is not self-aware or conscious of itself. It does not think independently from what it has been trained to do. AI can see patterns, analyze data, and report an output of a question or prompt faster than humans. but it has no emotions or



HOLLYWOOD

ON STRIKE

AI's potential threat to human jobs gained widespread attention when Hollywood movie and TV screenwriters and actors went on strike in 2023. The writers

protested against cutbacks on the number of people in the "writers' room" and being paid less for finalizing AI script drafts. The actors also protested AI's ability to scan their images and then use them — even after they died — to make new movies without their permission or compensation.

The Writers Guild of America reached an agreement with movie and TV writers that ended the Hollywood writers' strike in September 2023. The agreement stated that writers cannot be required to use AI software and included various protections for writers' jobs.

The more complicated actors' strike ended with an agreement in November 2023. It included AI rules for protecting actors from movie makers using their scanned images and voices without permission or compensation.

intuition. It does not create new knowledge, but rather generates new variations of existing knowledge from data it has machine-learned during its chatbot training.

Examples of Current Generative AI Benefits

- Translating nearly all world languages. AI can translate Shakespeare's vocabulary into modern English.
- Using natural human speech (as done by Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant) to serve as a "personal assistant" and answer questions and respond to commands.
- Providing more accurate medical diagnoses and reading of radiology scans, precise and non-invasive surgeries, robot monitoring of intensive care patients, and options for doctors to consider.
- Guiding self-driving cars (such as Tesla) to sense surrounding vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and other obstacles. Self-driving cars navigate by using GPS, radar, lidar, ultrasound, sensors, and cameras, but are currently still in a development stage.
- Helping teachers with individualized student learning. Students can benefit from AI tutors. AI can provide such tools as virtual field trips.
- Assisting authors, journalists, screenwriters, music composers, artists, video game developers, and other creators with research, drafts, and options. This allows creators to focus on more challenging tasks.
- Speeding up business operations like reports, accounting, tax preparation, marketing ads, delivery of goods, and fraud detection. Industrial robots can speed up assembly, packaging, and retrieval of goods from warehouses. AI facilitates inventions like 3-D printing, which can lead to new markets and jobs.
- Reducing time-consuming legal services such as researching cases and writing common legal

documents like wills. AI allows lawyers to make better use of their legal training for, and dedicate more time to, complex tasks like trial preparation.

- Enabling drones for search and rescue, survey of disasters, discovery of unknown archaeological sites, and updating maps.
- Conducting planetary and space exploration, including landing and surveying Mars.

Examples of Current Generative AI Harms

- Potentially threatening people's jobs, ranging from warehouse workers to professionals like lawyers. A *Los Angeles Times* poll conducted in July 2023 found that nearly half of Americans were concerned about AI having an effect on their work.
- Chatbot training uses copyrighted material without permission or compensation to the creators. Some developers use entire books from online sources to train their chatbots.
- Spreading misinformation, conspiracy theories, and hate speech. "Deepfake" AI impersonation can make it seem like a person says things they never said. Several deepfake videos of politicians have emerged online and in campaign phone calls. Many tech experts warn that these deepfakes could influence voters with false information.
- Chatbot training absorbs information from the Internet, which may invade privacy. This might include a person's medical information or a company's secret ingredients for a product. In China, face-recognition AI is being used to spy on individuals. U.S. law enforcement has used face recognition that is not always accurate and has led to false arrests.
- Mismanaging people's finances. A recent Federal Consumer Protection Bureau report found that some banks wrongly foreclosed on homeowners





Perhaps you have seen a car like this in your town. It is a self-driving car made by Waymo LLC, pictured here in 2023.

because of AI mismanagement. AI can also be used by malicious users to cause hacking, cyberattacks, ID theft, and fraud.

- Currently, AI has a flaw in failing to distinguish between fact vs. opinion in its recognition of racism, hate speech, and false information.
- Russia and other nations have used AI to try to interfere in democratic elections, including in the U.S. Some social media sites have recently added notices identifying deceptive AI-generated political ads.
- Users' loss of thinking skills. A 2023 study of university students in China and Pakistan showed AI negatively impacted students' decision-making skills while increasing laziness. In the U.S., many students are copying AI responses for use in their college application essays and schoolwork.
- AI development is now in the hands of private companies, some of which may ignore the dangers of AI to make a profit.
- Remote-controlled drones, carrying bombs and other weapons, have made warfare more deadly. Using AI to identify military targets is not always accurate, resulting in deaths of innocent civilians.

What Is 'Artificial General Intelligence'?

Because AI is not sentient or capable of moral judgments, many scientists doubt it will ever replace humans. For example, AI would have difficulty replacing teachers of young children, inventing new styles of art, understanding a medical patient's feelings, imagining the unreal, and experimenting to discover new scientific knowledge.

Nonetheless, some developers are working toward the ultimate goal of a "super intelligent" AI, or *Artificial General Intelligence* (AGI).

Possible AGI Benefits

Proponents of AGI argue that AGI chatbots could learn from experience rather than mere machine-learning. Developers could embed human values into chatbots to assist rather than replace humans, making them more efficient while relieving humans of repetitive tasks.

AGI would create original knowledge without human-directed training or intervention. This could solve complex problems, like creating new technology to reduce the effects of climate change. AGI might develop a cure for cancer, devices to replace diseased organs, remote-controlled surgeries, reversal of the effects of Alzheimer's disease, understanding cause(s) of autism, and analysis of a patient's genetics to predict chances of certain diseases.

NASA has already sent robotic "rovers" to Mars. Perhaps AGI robots could explore distant planets and beyond in space. Thus far, there are serious biological limitations to humans colonizing other planets, but AGI robots might not have those limitations.

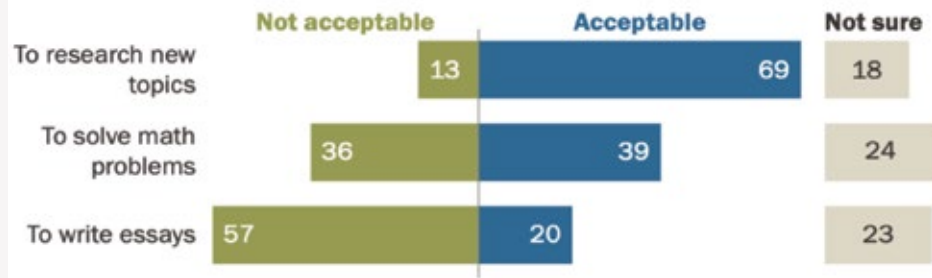
Possible AGI Harms

Without humans controlling machine-learning, AGI chatbots and robots might become unpredictable. AGI could make decisions and judgements based on *logical reasoning*, but they could not have human *moral reasoning*. Science has shown that humans develop their morality (sense of right and wrong) mainly during early childhood development and from nurturing in families, none of which machines have. AGI robots could be indifferent to threats of human extinction, such as nuclear war or extreme climate crises.

Dependency on AGI could put millions of people out of work, including professionals like doctors, engineers,

MANY TEENS SAY IT'S ACCEPTABLE TO USE CHATGPT FOR RESEARCH; FEW SAY IT'S OK TO USE IT FOR WRITING ESSAYS

Among U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who have heard about ChatGPT, % who think it's ___ for students to use it for each of the following



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 conducted Sept. 26-Oct. 23, 2023.

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teachers, and lawyers. Mass unemployment would lead to major disruptions of the global economy. At the same time, rich owners and nations could use AGI for selfish and evil purposes: developing more deadly biological and chemical weapons of war, for example. Space wars could erupt over mining of minerals on the moon and planets. While these risks may seem remote today, there are some who believe that AGI poses a real risk of causing these types of problems in the future if it is not properly regulated.

Finally, AGI poses the problem of who would be responsible for harmful acts of increasingly independent chatbots and robots. For example, we have seen disputes arise over car accidents with self-driving cars. Who is responsible: the vehicle that “made decisions” on the road, or the humans who originally programmed the vehicle?

Should Artificial Intelligence Be Regulated?

Currently, the AI industry is unregulated. Most research and development of AI is done secretly by profit-minded private companies that are in competition with each other.

In September 2023, technology leaders such as Sam Altman, Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, and Bill Gates, along with many others concerned about AI, met with U.S. senators in Washington. When asked if government should have a role in regulating AI, everyone raised their hands. But agreement on how to do this remained unclear. Some are worried that too much regulation would limit beneficial AI advances.

OpenAI co-founder Sam Altman testified before Congress on the risks of AI. “My worst fear,” he said, “is that we, the technology industry, cause significant harm to the world.” Altman sees both AI benefits and risks but is skeptical of companies regulating themselves.

The Center for AI Safety, a group of AI scientists and business leaders, stated, “Mitigating [reducing] the risk of extinction [of humanity] from AI should be a global priority alongside other society-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.”

Social media might offer some lessons against lack of regulation. Originally, social media was viewed as a wonderful way to allow freedom of expression and opinion for everyone. This did happen, but the lack of regulation also permitted hate speech, damaging rumors, conspiracy theories, and attempts by Russia and other countries to interfere with democratic elections.

International rules for AI can be difficult to achieve. They would establish minimum AI global standards, but nations have different and sometimes conflicting national goals. Nonetheless, the European Union (EU) has adopted the Artificial Intelligence Act, which:

- bans facial recognition to spy on and judge people’s behavior;
- identifies “deep fake” images as AI-created;
- identifies all chatbot products as AI-generated;
- regulates AI aimed at children; and
- fines violators up to 6 percent of a company’s annual world revenue.

The U.S. has not regulated AI as much as many advanced nations. In October 2023, President Biden issued an executive order to apply guidance on use of AI to federal agencies. Some of the features of the executive order include:

- federal standards for testing advanced AI systems before release;
- “watermarking” or labeling AI-generated content;
- preventing AI-engineered biological weapons;
- protecting privacy; and
- helping workers who lost jobs because of AI.



Congress would have to pass legislation to enforce some of the elements of President Biden’s executive order.

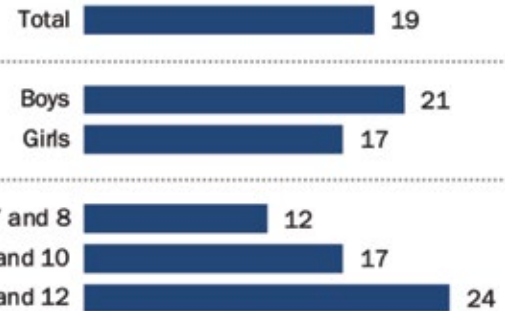
Opponents of government regulation say that private industries can set their own industry-wide regulations. They say government regulation would discourage innovation by imposing threats of fines and lengthy application processes. They also argue that slowdowns of AI development because of government regulations would put the U.S. at a disadvantage with China and other competing countries.

Writing & Discussion

1. Who do you think should own writing, music, art, and other chatbot content trained by existing data?
2. Who do you think should be responsible when AI goes wrong: developers or users? Why?
3. Do you think AI should be regulated? If so, who should regulate AI? Why?
 - self-regulation by for-profit company developers
 - individual nations
 - an international authority like the UN

AMONG TEENS WHO KNOW OF CHATGPT, 19% SAY THEY’VE USED IT FOR SCHOOLWORK

Among U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who have heard about ChatGPT, % who say they have ever used it to help with their schoolwork



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 conducted Sept. 26-Oct. 23, 2023.

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Author: Carlton Martz is a retired high school teacher and librarian and longtime contributor to BRIA. See the feature about Carl in our previous issue.

ACTIVITY: REGULATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

After reviewing the description and examples of the options, students in groups will recommend five AI regulation ideas and rank them, the first being their top choice. Groups may choose from parts of options. The groups will then defend their rankings.

OPTIONS FOR REGULATING AI

- A. Embed watermarks in all AI content to alert users how it was generated or changed by chatbots.
- B. Impose taxes on for-profit companies that develop AI to fund re-educating workers to function in an AI economy.
- C. Organize a massive worldwide education effort to prepare youth and working-age adults to compete in the emerging AI world. Establish a basic government income during retraining of workers and for people unable to compete.
- D. Rely on lawsuits by copyright holders against developers who train their chatbots without creator permission or compensation.
- E. Negotiate labor contracts with employers for the use of AI.
- F. Pass national legislation with AI requirements, such as bans on certain AI uses like making biological weapons and testing of advanced chatbots with strict government standards for accuracy and lack of bias.
- G. Create a national government nonprofit agency to research and develop AI that competes with, and sets an example for, private for-profit companies to develop a strong AI ethical component.
- H. Adopt features of the recently written European Union (EU) Artificial Intelligence Act.
- I. Adopt international rules for AI written by an international authority, such as the UN.
- J. Let private industries develop their own regulations.



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Standards Addressed

Does the Constitution Establish a Republic or a Democracy? A Supreme Court History

California History Social-Science Standard

California History-Social Science 12.1 Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy. (3) Explain how the U.S. Constitution reflects a balance between the classical republican concern with promotion of the public good and the classical liberal concern with protecting individual rights; and discuss how the basic premises of liberal constitutionalism and democracy are joined in the Declaration of Independence as “self evident truths.” (4) Explain how the Founding Fathers’ realistic view of human nature led directly to the establishment of a constitutional system that limited the power of the governors and the governed as articulated in the *Federalist Papers*. (5) Describe the systems of separated and shared powers, the role of organized interests (*Federalist Paper Number 10*) . . .

California History-Social Science Framework (2016), Ch. 17, p. 434: “[Students] consider how government can attain goals sanctioned by the majority while protecting its citizens from the abuse of power by asking: **What are the trade-offs between majority rule and the protection of individual rights?** They will review and expand their knowledge of the key elements of a representative form of democracy, such as the idea that the authority to govern resides in its citizens.”

California History-Social Science Framework (2016), Ch. 17, p. 436: “The *Federalist Papers* explicate major constitutional concepts such as separation of powers, checks and balances, and enumerated powers as well as the Framers’ understanding of human nature and the political process. In particular, *Federalist Paper Number 10* explains the role of organized interest . . . Students should understand how these ideas shaped the American constitutional system and democratic behavior.”

C3 Framework Indicators (National)

D2.Civ.2.9-12. Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system, with attention to various theories of democracy, changes in Americans’ participation over time, and alternative models from other countries, past and present.

D2.Civ.4.9-12. Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested.

Common Core State Standards: RI.8.11-12. (“Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy (e.g., *The Federalist*, presidential addresses);”); RH.1.11-12; RH.2.11-12; RH.10.11-12; WHST.9.11-12; WHST.10.11-12.

Jeanette Rankin: A Pioneer for Peace

California History-Social Science Standards

11.4. Students trace the rise of the United States to its role as a world power in the twentieth century. (5) Analyze the political, economic, and social ramifications of World War I on the home front.

11.7. Students analyze America’s participation in World War II. (1) Examine the origins of American involvement in the war, with an emphasis on the events that precipitated the attack on Pearl Harbor.

C3 Framework National Indicators

D2.Civ.5.9-12. Evaluate citizens’ and institutions’ effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level.

D2.His.3.9-12. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.

Common Core State Standards: SL.11-12.1, SL.11-12.3, RH.11-12.1, RH.11-12.2, RH.11-12.10, WHST.11-12.10

AI and the Future of the World

California History-Social Science Standard 10.3: Students analyze the effects of the Industrial Revolution in England, France, Germany, Japan, and the United States.

California History-Social Science Standard 11.11: Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.

California History-Social Science Standard 12.4 (Principles of American Democracy): Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the Constitution. (1) Discuss Article I of the Constitution as it relates to the legislative branch. . . .

California History-Social Science Standard 12.4 (Principles of Economics): Students analyze the elements of the U.S. labor market in a global setting. (2) Understand the operations of the labor market, including the circumstances surrounding the establishment of principle American unions, procedures that unions use to gain benefits for their members, the effects of unionization, the minimum wage, and unemployment.

C3 Framework National Indicators

D2.Civ.6.9-12. Critique relationships among governments, civil societies, and economic markets.

D2.Eco.9.9-12. Describe the roles of institutions such as clearly defined property rights and the rule of law in a market economy.

D2.Eco.13.9-12. Explain why advancements in technology and investments in capital goods and human capital increase economic growth and standards of living.

Common Core State Standards: SL.11-12.1, SL.11-12.3, RH.11-12.1, RH.11-12.2, RH.11-12.10, WHST.11-12.10

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People v. Clark

NEW

A Murder Trial

Featuring a pretrial argument on the Fourth Amendment (involving a geofence warrant)

People v. Clark is the trial of Tobie Clark, the in-house counsel for Sunshine Medical Components, Inc. (“SMC”), a medical technology company. Clark is charged with the first-degree murder of SMC’s chief executive officer, Kieran Sunshine.

The prosecution alleges that Tobie Clark murdered Kieran because Kieran was backing out of Clark’s plot to commit fraud against SMC’s board of directors. Prosecution witnesses overheard two arguments between Clark and Kieran and saw Tobie heading toward Kieran’s suite around the time of the murder.



The defense argues that Tobie Clark did not have a motive to kill Kieran and never had the intent to murder or was inside Kieran’s suite. Furthermore, it was Kieran, not Clark, who concocted the plot to commit fraud, and Clark had no idea about the plot and refused to participate when he found out.

The testimonies of the state medical examiner and the defense forensic expert reveal different opinions about the physical and forensic evidence.

The pretrial hearing is based on the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure and centers on a defense motion to quash evidence garnered through a geofence warrant.

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