Introduction

Today is not...

- A deep dive into computer science.
- A cheerleading rally for AI.

Today is...

- A chance to start a conversation.
- A reflection on ethics and assessment.
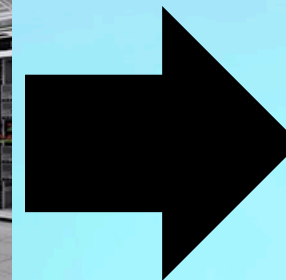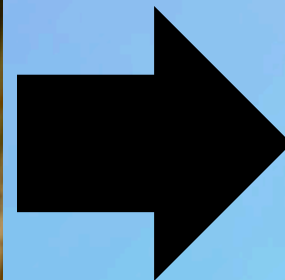
Agenda

- Warm up discussion
- How GenAI works
- Ethics and safety challenges
- Authentic assessment and policy workshop
- A blueprint for AI leadership

Group Discussion Warm Up (4 min)
Why might these ideas be misguided?

1) "Let's go back to doing all our assignments on pen and paper."

2) "Let's run all student work through an AI detection system."

3) "Let's buy new, AI-powered edtech tools and mandate that teachers use them."

4) "Let's have AI grade student work and respond to parent emails."

What is an LLM, and how does it work?

Data Acquistion

Pre-Training

Fine-Tuning

M.E.C.H.O. - Our "Mechanical Echo"

- Media

- Exploitation

- Climate

- Hallucinations

- Objectivity

My friend and i made a male lion from plastic ❤️
It's a great idea 💡 🐾🦁❣️

So what can we do?

Key ideas:

- Confirmation Bias and wish fulfillment
- Implicit and explicit filters
- Heuristics
- Psychology of conspiracy theories (desire for community, rationalizing fears)

Key questions:

- Does this news item elicit a strong emotional response? Is only one outlet reporting it even though it seems like a big story? Do you "wish" this story were true? Does it reinforce your pre-concieved ideas?

Exploitation & Climate

So what can we do?

Countering Expliotation

- Global Voices
- Partnership for AI
- NotMy.ai

Countering Climate Effects

- Use AI when it's the best or only tool for the job
- Use smaller models when possible
- AI to support climate projects

Hallucinations & Objectivity

You

Make me an image of London with none of those red telephone booths.

ChatGPT

Here's the image of a bustling street scene in London, capturing the essence of the city without any red telephone booths.

So what can we do?

Mitigate hallucinations and objectivity issues (not "bias") by...

1) Using fine-tuned models like Perplexity and SciSpace

2) Verifying facts, quotes, and data by using reliable sources. Model this behavior.

3) Employing prompting strategies like "Role Prompting," "Few-Shot Prompting," and "Think step by step."

Workshop Activities - (10 minutes)

Option 1) Use AI to generate more authentic assessments.

Option 2) Work in small groups to start building a roadmap for your school's AI policy.

Situation

Faculty

- Surveys suggest that about 30%-50% of teachers are resistant to AI use in schools. This is especially true in the humanities.

- Teachers fear a loss of autonomy, a loss of confidence, a loss of routine, a loss of their sense of purpose.

- Teachers still have post-pandemic "change fatigue" and skepticism toward educational technology.

- Most independent schools commit 2-4 days per year to all-faculty professional development. Multiple stakeholders are vying for that time.

Staff

- Staff development typically gets far less attention than faculty development.

- Staff are spending up to 40 hours a month on tasks that are repetitive, mundane, and involve moving information from one app to another.

Leadership

- Most school leaders are somewhat unfamiliar with the challenges and opportunities of AI. They tend to be entirely unfamiliar with automation.

- The fast pace of change makes it difficult to predict what will come next or how to prepare.

Students

- Students worry about unclear AI policies that vary from class to class.

- The number one Gen-Z use case for AI is not cheating; it's therapy.

- Students are uncertain what the future skills are that they are going to need.

Complication

- The amount of computational power committed to AI models is increasing by 10x every year.I **We are at the beginning of an exponential curve.**

- Thoughtlessly rushing to adopt AI into every facet of school life is the wrong approach.

- "Wait and see" is the wrong approach too.

Question

What can school leaders do today to be ready for tomorrow?

Answer

Lead and support change. Don't "manage" change.

Focus your AI PD on Ethics, Safety, and Authentic Assessment.

Start automating office tasks. Use those "quick wins" as narratives.

Stay in touch

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