

Introduction

Today is not...

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

Today is...

- An introduction to AI ethics and safety.
- A chance to gain hands on experience.

Agenda

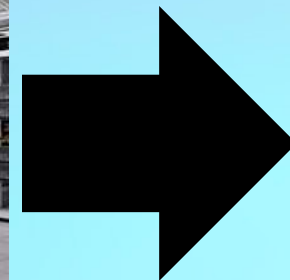
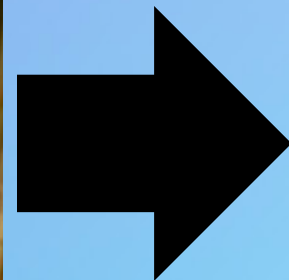
- Warm up discussion
- How GenAI works
- Ethics and safety challenges
- Administrative assistant workshop
- Strategy overview (time allowing)

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 Acquisition

Pre-Training

Fine-Tuning

M.E.C.H.O. - Our “Mechanical Echo”

- Media
- Exploitation
- Climate
- Hallucinations
- Objectivity



2d · 🌐
My friend and i made a male lion from plastic ❤️
It's a great idea 💡 🐾 🦁 ❤️



👍❤️ 4.9K

254 comments • 205 shares

A



B





TikTok
@elizworth

so we've been covering an
absolutely insane story
here in Baltimore today

So what can schools do?

Key ideas:

- “Pre-bunk,” don’t debunk.
- Media literacy - confirmation bias, wish fulfillment, implicit / 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 schools do?

Countering Exploitation

- 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 schools 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.”**

Breakout Activity Options

Activity Directions



Group 1

Use AI to create handwritten communications with greater efficiency.

Group 2

Identify custom FAQ bot opportunities for your school community.

Group 3

Learn how AI can evaluate multiple schedules to help you find shared availability.

Group 4

Learn how AI can support an email drafting process in an emotionally charged situation.

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 fear that the educational products they've spent years learning how to create are losing relevance.

Complication

- The amount of computational power committed to AI models is increasing by 10x every year. That means that AI models in three years will have 1000x more compute than the AI we interact with today. **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

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

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

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

Stay in touch



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Where is Generative AI heading?

- Hyperpersonalized with near infinite context windows.
- Increasingly autonomous and process oriented.
- Seamless multimodality + app integrations.
- More compute, more energy, more data (synthetic?).
- Moving from the cloud to the client device.