Communicating Gen-AI use with your students

Overview of Generative AI

Generative AI tools, such as GPT-4, ChatGPT, and Microsoft Copilot, can create writing, computer code, and images with minimal human input. These tools have been used for:

- Creating outlines, bullet points, and graphics for presentations.
- Writing coherent prose in multiple languages.
- Critiquing and editing text.
- Providing explanations, literature review ideas, and summarizing texts.
- Suggesting responses for tests or discussion posts.
- Translating text and creating computer code.
- Assisting with formulas in applications like Excel.

Setting Expectations on Generative AI use in your Courses

It is important for instructors to provide clarity on generative AI use in your courses. Instructors are encouraged to discuss these technologies with their students and include relevant language in their outlines. The following statements may be used as further guidance to support instructors in communicating generative AI use to their students.

1. Unrestricted Use

- **Suggested Statements:**
    - Students may use AI tools for understanding course materials and producing assignments but must be accountable for their submissions.
    - AI-generated content must be submitted as an appendix with the prompt used.
    - Reflections on AI tool usage should be included in assignments.
    - AI-generated content must be cited appropriately.

2. Some Use Permitted

- **Suggested Statements:**
    - AI tools can be used for creating assignment outlines or critiquing drafts, but the final work must be original.
    - AI tools may be prohibited for tests, major assignments, or research papers but allowed for information gathering.

3. Restricted Use

- **Suggested Statements:**

- o AI tools can be used for learning course material but not for completing assignments.
- o The use of AI tools for assignments may be considered an academic offense.
- o Students must not copy or paraphrase from AI applications for assignments.

Additional Notes for Faculty

- Clarify the rationale for allowing or disallowing AI tools, relating it to pedagogical goals.

Conclusion

These guidelines aim to help instructors shape their conversations with students to address the use of generative AI tools, ensuring a shared understanding of acceptable practices in their courses.

References and resources

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