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Welcome to You've Got This, a weekly podcast for higher education professionals looking to increase their confidence and capacity for juggling the day-to-day demands of an academic life.

I'm your host, Dr.

Katie Linder.

On this episode, I thought I would talk about some of the ways that I'm using the chat GPT tool.

Now I would imagine that you have heard of this, if not completely, you know, dived in and played around with it.

But for those of you who are unfamiliar with what this is, chat GPT is an artificial intelligence tool that generates human like text responses based on the input that it receives.

So you can give it like a prompt and then it will respond to your prompt.

And, uh, for example, I asked chat GPT where it gets its information from.

Um, and it gave me the following response that chat GPT generates responses based on the vast amount of text data it has been trained on.

This includes a diverse range of sources, such as books, articles, websites, and other textual content available on the internet.

The training process involves exposing the model to this data and teaching it to understand language patterns, context, and semantics.

However, it's important to note that chat GPT does not access the internet or retrieve real time information during conversations.

it relies solely on the knowledge it has been trained on up to its last update.

And the free version of chat GPT that I was, uh, that I referenced, I think it was trained with the last update in like January of 2022.

So for example, what that means is if I were to go into this version of chat GPT and say, Hey, what are like the most recent books coming out in the next couple of months, it wouldn't be able to tell me because it doesn't have updates about things that are happening in the future.

So, um, now this is a tool that is not without controversy.

So I do want to briefly address some of that before I talk about how I'm using the tool.

So like a lot of different AI, um, tools and technologies, there is definitely concern about bias and fairness.

And there are, you know, language models that have been criticized for basically inheriting biases because of the data that they're trained on.

And this can lead to biased information or discriminatory responses that do reflect, you know, societal bias.

And so I do want to put that out there.

Um, I also want to mention that, um, chat GPT can generate text that resembles human writing, which can also make it possible to produce misleading or false information.

So some people have said, Oh, you know, I'm using chat GPT to like write a paper and the citations it's putting into the paper are incorrect.

And that can absolutely happen with this kind of thing.

So there can also be AI-generated content that is indistinguishable from human-generated content.

And this is where we also get into concerns and higher ed in particular about things like cheating and students using this kind of tool to create information that they're then kind of like passing off as their own work.

Now, I would also say, you know, we can do that too in terms of our academic writing.

And I think we need to be really careful about how we're using these tools in that perspective.

And that gets into kind of a third area of controversy or just concern, which is ethical use.

So there are definitely ongoing debates about the ethical use of AI language models like chat GPT.

And part of that has to do with like the intellectual property issues of how the model is built.

There are artists and authors who have said, like you've used my work without permission to build some of the things that are coming out of chat GPT.

So issues around data privacy, consent, and just in general, like responsible AI development are important to be thinking about.

Now, I will also say, I think when new technologies come out, it is important to think about the pros and the cons, but I think there's also a balanced approach to how you can view technologies like AI.

It's developing super rapidly, and it can be really, really challenging to keep up with both the uses and the controversies of technologies like this.

So I am certainly not representing myself as an expert on AI.

And we've actually been having a lot of conversations on my own campus.

I'm sure you've been having them on your campus as well about how do we even tackle something like a technology development in its way when it is evolving so rapidly.

And to me, this is like the equivalent of when the internet was created.

There are so many uses and unknowns about where this is headed.

So in my mind, this is less like, you know, when we were looking at like massive open online courses and we're like, Oh, what is the trend, you know, around this AI is more than a trend, I think in terms of kind of how it's really going to, um, uproot a lot of things, you know, that, that we're kind of thinking about as more foundational in our, our work lives and our personal lives.

Um, however, even though I'm not an expert, I do like to play around with this stuff.

And I do think it's helpful to experiment with it and kind of see, you know, what can do and like, so I can engage in at least like basic conversations when I'm talking to colleagues about this.

So I've been using the free version of chat GPT to kind of experiment with different ways that I can use this tool.

And I thought it might be helpful to share some of the ways that I've been using it.

And of course, I would love to hear about the ways that you're using it as well.

So one way that I've used chat GPT is to basically start drafting things, like giving me like outlines of things that I can kind of play off of and edit.

And one way that I think about chat GPT, in terms of kind of like my own ethical lens, is if I was going to like ask a colleague or like one of my staff to do a particular kind of task and I would feel comfortable with them doing that, I feel comfortable asking chat GPT to do it.

So if I was going to say to one of my staff, "Can you like, you know, outline a basic, you know, you know, content of what could go in this report?

" and then you pass it off to me and I do a round of editing, I feel comfortable asking ChatGPT to do the same.

So I've been working on a report at work, and I wanted to just get another view of what could potentially go into this report.

And so I just offered a prompt to ChatGPT about the general work of the group that I've been working with that's generating the report and said, how would you organize this?

What is a way to organize content for this kind of report?

And of course I didn't use exactly what came out of chat GPT, but I was able to kind of use it to kind of start to shape some ideas and I like, you know, chat GPT, especially for things where I don't want to start with a completely empty page.

I think it's helpful to just kind of like generate some content that I can then edit.

Now I do want to mention that I shared with the group that I was working with on this, that I did use chat GPT to generate the outline.

So I think it's important to be open about like the use of these tools and how they're being utilized.

Um, a second use was I was asked to recommend someone for an award and I used chat GPT to start a draft of that letter, um, and to give me some language that, um, I again, prompted it with like very specific things about the award and the kinds of things that I wanted to say about this individual.

Um, and then had a draft that I could kind of play with.

I have also used chat GPT to offer language for writing book blurb requests that I get from editors and then I edit them pretty thoroughly.

But I have found book blurbs are kind of a weird, like sub genre of writing.

And I like to have multiple options of things that I can say.

Um, and so again, this has to do with like the prompt.

This has a lot to do with what you're putting in and the level of detail that you're putting in to ensure that you're getting something back out from chat GBT that actually really is personalized to what you're trying to do.

I have also used chat GPT.

This is like one of the more fun things that I have loved using it for to create a personal syllabus on a topic that I wanted to further explore.

Now I'm just gonna give a quick spoiler alert that this Friday, so a couple days from when this posts, I'm gonna be talking about personal syllabi on my blog.

And this is a revisit, 'cause I talked about this about four years ago, and then I'm gonna revisit it, but talk about how chat GPT helped me to generate a personal syllabus.

And I'm going to give an example of that.

And I actually asked for a personal syllabus about AI and higher education.

How meta am I?

Um, but I'm going to share what it popped out, um, uh, on the blog, um, because this is something that I've been really looking into.

And I have found that when there's a topic that feels kind of overwhelming for me, and I'm not sure how to tackle it.

And I would say AI and higher education definitely falls into that category.

I will prompt chat GPT to create a syllabus.

And I basically ask it to draft learning objectives and to gather podcast episodes, articles, books, and multimedia, like Ted talks.

That would be helpful for me to engage with and to create a schedule for me to look at those items.

And it's super fun.

Okay.

Another fun way that I use chat GPT right now is defined authors that I might like to read based on authors that I currently read.

So I'll just ask chat GPT like, Hey, I'm really liking this author right now.

Who else should I be reading in this space?

And it gives me like a list of people that if you like this person, you might like this other person and here's why, which I think is kind of fun.

I also recently used chat GPT to draft an abstract for a conference presentation that I was working on with a couple of colleagues.

And again, this just kind of gave me something to start from.

I did check with the conference guidelines just to see if there was any concerns about using chat GPT.

I feel like right now we're in a bit of a liminal space where not everybody knows to say if they have concerns about that.

So it is helpful to have like a line, you know, at the bottom of some of your materials that basically says, I use chat GPT to kind of grab some insights that I used for this.

I think, again, it's super important to be honest about that.

And then the last example that I wanted to offer is I recently used chat GPT to play with different formats for a rubric that I was creating.

So I wanted to start with like a holistic rubric, which if you're familiar with rubrics, that's basically like paragraph form.

So you might say like an A paper looks like this, and then you'd have like a paragraph, a B paper looks like this, and then you have a paragraph.

And I wasn't sure if I wanted to do a holistic rubric or if I wanted to do what is called an analytic rubric, which is the one that you might be more familiar with.

It is like stuff in boxes where you have like specific criteria, and then it's broken out by like the scoring categories.

So I decided to basically have chat gpt take some information and create a holistic version of a rubric.

And then I said, can you turn this into a table, basically, and show me what it would look like that way.

And so being able to play around with stuff like that in terms of formatting was really helpful because it helped me to see how I wanted to display information that I had created, but there were multiple ways in which I could display it.

So I find these things kind of intriguing.

I think it's fun to kind of play around.

I do think, again, I will say one more time, we should be honest when we are playing around with chat GPT and utilizing it, especially for work product.

But I would be really curious if you've played around with chat GPT yet.

What have you used it for?

You can always email me at hello@drkatylinder.

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I always love to hear from you and thanks so much for listening.

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[music] Coming up.