AI is Ruining Education

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With the recent uprise in the development of AI, it has posed a clear issue in the school workplace. This goes for both teachers and students. I have found it deeply upsetting to see how much my peers rely on AI for their classwork, but I find it devastating to see teachers encouraging the use of AI or even using it themselves to create assignments for students or use it to grade, which unfortunately does happen. AI holds a significant threat towards student education, teacher work-ethic, and a surplus of issues outside of the education system that prove that the use of generative AI is also morally wrong, outweighing the potential "positives" people use to defend it.

AI is a threat towards student education because students who rely on AI to pass their classes and do assignments do not learn anything. This is incredibly terrifying to me when I think about younger generations of children who will grow up surrounded by AI, which I have already begun to see affecting students my own age and older. As AI becomes more popular and socially acceptable to use, the problems grow. According to a report released by the nonprofit Center for Democracy and Technology, 85% of teachers and 86% of students used AI in the 2024-25 school year. This prevalent use of AI among students can lead to children not properly developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative skills. As stated by National Science Teaching Association, "when individuals rely heavily on AI for information retrieval and decision making, their ability to engage in reflective problem solving and independent analysis may decline". And of course, how dangerous it is for students in medical or law school using AI on their assignments. These students are the future; these are people who will hopefully become functioning members of society, who we will have to rely on at times for the security of our own lives, and they are using AI on the assignments they cannot bring themselves to do, or using AI to "teach" them by providing notes and help with studying.

I have witnessed firsthand teachers using and encouraging students to use AI for assignments. I find that this will be incredibly dangerous to the future of education, whether it be the productivity and growth of students, or teachers' jobs. According to an analysis done by the research firm, Forrester, AI could be poised to destroy 6% of all US jobs by 2030, which of course, could include jobs like educators, as there seems to be no clear line to where the use of AI becomes unacceptable to moral and societal standards. According to a survey done by EdWeek Research Center, in 2023, a little more than 34% of teachers said they used AI for school, rising to a substantial 61% in 2025, and this percentage is only projected to grow. It is a concern that teachers are using AI to this extent considering information generated by AI is often incorrect and does not have accurate, trustworthy sources to back its claims. Students shouldn't be taught incorrect information.

Along with all of the clear reasons why AI is dangerous in the schoolplace, AI also poses several significant environmental issues. As stated by the Environment Programme, the data centers that house AI produce electronic waste, containing hazardous substances like mercury

and lead, consume large amounts of water, which is rapidly growing scarce in many environments, rely on critical minerals and rare elements, which are often mined unsustainably and in environmentally destructive ways, and use massive amounts of electricity, surging emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases. It is estimated that AI systems have consumed between 312 billion and 765 billion liters of water globally in 2025. If the use of AI continues to rapidly grow and be used at such an extensive rate, there will be detrimental environmental effects that we will be unable to solve or come back from, which has already begun to happen.

The reliance on AI that many students and teachers have is growing overwhelmingly fast and is bound to have dangerous, lasting effects on the future. In order to solve this issue, schools can start by encouraging and teaching students and staff why AI use is unethical and work to block sites whose entire purpose is to generate AI, like ChatGPT, which is one of the most commonly used sites for AI.