

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility: Examples of ChatGPT-Infused Assignments in a Course on Superheroes

Kevin Yee, University of Central Florida

AI Fluency

1. Understanding how AI works
2. Deciding when to use AI (and when not to)
3. Valuing AI
4. Applying effective prompt engineering methods
5. Evaluating AI output
6. Adding human value
7. Displaying digital adaptability

Discussion Board Prompts

1. Optimize AI output by holding a conversation with ChatGPT: You'll ask three separate prompts on the subject of rivalry between Captain America and Iron Man. The first prompt is very simple - paste this verbatim: "explain the rivalry between Captain America and Iron Man in the Marvel movies." Based on how ChatGPT answers, ask a follow up question for a deeper analysis, done in a conversational style (assume the software remembers your original question from a moment ago, so don't repeat yourself. Talk to it like you'd talk to a human). Then, ask it a third clarifying question/demand, again choosing what to ask based on what it just answered. Paste all prompts and answers into the discussion board as a single post (use hard returns or formatting to make obvious which are your prompts and which are the AI answers).
2. Give ChatGPT this exact prompt: "Write a 300 word essay, with three academic citations and bibliography, that analyzes a single character from Marvel's Avengers in a deep, meaningful way." Summarize the essay in one sentence in your discussion post, paste the bibliography, and use the UCF Library's website to search for each one. Label each one as "real" or "hallucinated" in bold, capitalized letters.
3. In addition to knowing how to hold a conversation with ChatGPT, you should know how to obtain increasingly better results by writing longer, more specific prompts. Start by asking ChatGPT a simple prompt about how Black Widow was sexualized in the first Avengers movie. Then re-type the prompt, making it longer and adding more context, such as which specific elements the AI should focus on. (This time, don't treat it like a conversation - treat each prompt as a brand new conversation). Finally, re-type the prompt a third time. Make the third prompt even more detailed, even longer, and giving the software very specific instructions on how to focus the analysis. Copy-paste all three prompts (and the ChatGPT answers) as your discussion post.

Kevin.Yee@ucf.edu | Updated: 9/21/2023

Creative Commons BY-NC-SA – OK to use and remix if non-commercial, must credit me and use same CC license. (No need to email for permission as long as this footer is included in your copy).

Essay and Project Assignments

1. Ask ChatGPT to create an original, ambitious thesis (and opening paragraph of a hypothetical essay) that analyzes this movie. Write a 200-500 word analysis of the AI output. What makes this thesis good? How might it be wrong, or limited? How might you make it more ambitious, or a more fruitful analysis? Write your essay as the next step. You can incorporate the AI output into your ideas, but do not RESTRICT yourself to just the AI suggestions. You can also disregard the AI output entirely and write a completely different essay. Paste both your original ChatGPT prompt and the AI output at the conclusion of your essay.
2. Ask ChatGPT to generate an outline of a short essay using one of your chosen interpretative approaches (the one that is NOT Utilitarianism). Feel free to use this output to help guide your thoughts in creating your final output: a blend of both Utilitarianism and one other approach. Or, you may ignore the AI output. Paste the AI output below your finished essay. If you choose to use ChatGPT to generate ideas about Utilitarianism as well, or ways to mix the two approaches in an essay, this AI output does not need to be included in your final draft. However, remember not to use AI output "wholesale," which would be an act of plagiarism. Remember that any source cited by ChatGPT is likely hallucinated.
3. Ask ChatGPT to generate a short version of this entire assignment (simple outline, not detailed) for BOTH options - one output for superhero burden, and one for utilitarianism. Remember to "engineer" your prompt to get useful results. For instance, the software won't know what "superhero burden" means unless you explain that. Feel free to use (or ignore) the AI output when creating your own final product. If using, remember to embellish and improve - do not simply turn in the AI's work. Paste both outputs from the AI (one from each prompt) below your final product.
4. ChatGPT can be optionally used for this assignment to generate initial ideas, but not the final output. No ChatGPT products need to be turned in for this assignment.

Final Exam (Oral Interview)

1. Studying: Quickly skim the readings again and make sure you know the major claims of each reading. As prep for this interview, give yourself numerous hypothetical questions, and challenge yourself to provide expanded two-minute answers that include both big conclusions and supporting evidence. You may even want to ask ChatGPT to assist, either by creating questions for you to mentally answer, or by providing answers to questions you pose that you think might be at the interview. Or both!

Kevin.Yee@ucf.edu | Updated: 9/21/2023

Creative Commons BY-NC-SA – OK to use and remix if non-commercial, must credit me and use same CC license. (No need to email for permission as long as this footer is included in your copy).