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COD Research Symposium Presentation

28 April 2023

### Defining 'Original Work' in the ChatGPT Era

When I first wrote this speech for the Forensics Team (aka Speech Team), I worried it would be accused of plagiarism. I was wrong...and correct. Speech Competition Ballot remark from March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023- "I won't struggle to rank this....- It technically isn't plagiarism anyway." Another competition Ballot from February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 "Since the speeches are supposed to be your original work... it does raise some questions."

These two ballots represent a quickly forming ideological divide over the very notion of originality. Let me explain: In November 2022, Open AI, an artificial intelligence research and development company released ChatGPT- an artificially intelligent chatbot, trained to answer questions or requests in a conversational, human way. According to Reuters on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, ChatGPT has already amassed 100 million active users, making it the fastest-growing consumer application in history. Unlike Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa which answer questions by pulling information off the internet- ChatGPT has the ability to create content – including computer code, social media posts, emails, essays, and even speeches for forensic competitions.

Good news! So far, I have written this speech by myself- BUT I didn't have to. I could have simply asked ChatGPT to produce a 9 minute informative speech, with seven sources. The question then, is if I didn't tell you, would you know or even consider if it was original work? Some may be familiar with the seemingly omniscient powers of ChatGPT. But for those that

aren't, I want to demonstrate the humanistic language that ChatGPT is currently creating, even in its technological infancy, to start a conversation that needs to happen imminently within forensics, academia, and society at large. So let's first hear from ChatGPT about both its origins and applications- before finally exploring a few implications written by me- Natalie- that only scratch the surface of how this technology could change the world.

To uncover its origins, I asked ChatGPT about Who created it? Why was it created? And Why was it released? Here is ChatGPT's response:

“ChatGPT was created by a team of researchers and engineers at OpenAI, a leading artificial intelligence research organization based in San Francisco, California. The organization's mission is to develop and promote AI in a way that is safe, ethical, and aligned with human values.

ChatGPT was created to advance the field of natural language processing, which is a subfield of artificial intelligence that focuses on teaching computers to understand and generate human language. In a recent study from 2023, ChatGPT was shown to outperform previous language models in a variety of natural language tasks, such as question-answering and text completion. By making ChatGPT available to the public, OpenAI hopes to inspire new applications and to accelerate progress towards more advanced AI systems that can better interact with human language.”

Next, I asked the chatbot about its applications in both business and medicine, and ChatGPT produced the following content:

“ChatGPT can be used to automate a wide range of tasks, which can lead to cost savings for businesses. By automating tasks that would otherwise require human labor, businesses can reduce their labor costs and increase their efficiency. ChatGPT can be trained to handle common customer inquiries and provide automated responses, which can improve customer satisfaction

and reduce the workload for human customer service representatives. According to a report by Grand View Research, the global chatbot market size is expected to reach \$9.4 billion by 2024, driven in part by the growing demand for chatbots in customer service and support.

One potential application of ChatGPT in medicine is in the field of clinical decision-making. ChatGPT can be used to process large amounts of medical data, including patient records and research studies. This could help medical professionals make more informed and accurate diagnoses and treatment plans. ChatGPT can be used to develop conversational AI systems that can assist patients in accessing health information, scheduling appointments, and communicating with healthcare providers.”

Hi- it's me Natalie- I'm back- You have every right to be fearful. ChatGPT has the potential to be the next dystopian AI origin story- like Wallee, Terminator, or Avenger's Age of Ultron. But, as techno-sociologist Zeynep Tufekci stated in her October 2017 TED Talk, “What we need to fear most is not what artificial intelligence will do to us on its own, but how the people in power will use artificial intelligence to control and manipulate us.”

Now I want to present original implications to explore what we just heard: misinformation capabilities, academic ethics, and its role in intercollegiate speech competition. First, ChatGPT's convincing human language patterns lend itself naturally to misinformation campaigns. A study in the January 2017 Journal of Neuroscience found that human brains are programmed to respond to confidence and more highly value the opinion of confident people. On OpenAI's website, they acknowledge this stating, “ChatGPT sometimes writes plausible-sounding but incorrect or nonsensical answers.” Because humans respond to ‘stuff that sounds good’ ChatGPT can create coherent, compelling writing that millions may believe without question. For example, on December 19th, 2022, Insider journalist Samantha Delouya

experimented by asking the chatbot to write a news article. The result was “nearly pitch perfect” except for convincing quotes from a CEO that were entirely manufactured. In the content I asked ChatGPT to generate, it cited a 2023 study- which is impossible- the study does not exist- because ChatGPT’s training data only goes through 2021.

Since ChatGPT works as an enhanced google search, it has become students favorite anonymous collaborator, sounding alarm bells throughout education. Questions of authenticity and plagiarism have prompted public school districts to ban its use and block it from their networks. A survey from Intelligent Magazine on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 found that college students are actively using ChatGPT and 60% have used it on more than half of their assignments. Beyond students using ChatGPT unethically, this technology may fundamentally alter the educational experience. As ChatGPT becomes even more efficient at content creation, students have a powerful resource for writing, editing, expanding, and exploring critical thought. The US News & World Reports explained on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 that some teachers are working with ChatGPT to teach critical thinking and break down complex material. Its ability to aid with grammar, syntax, and organization can be extremely helpful for English language learners and students with learning disabilities. Just like how robotics initiated a massive, and complex, societal shift in human labor - ChatGPT could be the catalyst to a new educational era.

Finally, given that I am on COD’s Speech and Debate Team, it seemed prudent to investigate the implications that ChatGPT will have on forensics. It can generate background information for public addresses, and provide access and equity for students with limited access to coaches, experience, funding, and alumni. However the questions over oral citations, its allowance in forensics, and how tournaments can regulate ChatGPT may force us to address the issues that already exist regarding originality. The January 2007 edition of *Speaker & Gavel*

published a study evaluating the definition of ‘original work’ in community college platform speeches. “Academia has established guidelines for plagiarism and unattributed collaboration, [but] no consistent definition [among coaches was] found” and, “an agreed upon definition of ‘original work’ remains in question”- Ultimately, ChatGPT’s presence may make us finish a discussion that is long overdue. Speech Team is only one example of where I chose to investigate the multitude of questions that ChatGPT raises. These same questions:

- What is original work and authenticity?
- Is using ChatGPT a form of plagiarism?
- How will this impact work and learning?

And more... can all be applied to student work in classes, other extracurriculars, even beyond academia...and as I found, none of these questions have concrete, conclusive answers, but instead have multifaceted, complex, tradeoffs that we must evaluate and continue to question as this technology evolves and becomes even more prominent in our society.

Using ChatGPT, we have examined the background and applications, before I finally evaluated the compelling implications that this artificial intelligence poses. This language model is doing something that we have long believed only humans can do- communicate. If artificial intelligence is capable of convincingly communicating like a human, it ignites questions about what makes human beings exceptional, and even further, forces us to ponder whether consciousness is actually limited to human beings.

Summary:

The sudden release of OpenAI's artificially intelligent chatbot, ChatGPT, in November, 2022, prompted a frenzy of questions and concerns about the imminent impact of this technology. As a member of the College of DuPage's Speech and Debate Team, I decided to tackle this topic in the form of an informative speech. This presentation explains what ChatGPT is and a few potential use cases, but most importantly explores the implications this technology has on misinformation, academics, forensics, and 'original work'.