To date, I have been reluctant to engage with chatbots. I believe that habit has an important role in this, as I've been using search engines my whole life with ease, so why change things now? Personal experience also plays a part, with the term artificial intelligence being the tech industry's most prominent buzzword, its meaning continues to erode for me as its use increases. When Chat GPT made waves last year, my reaction could be summarized as that of the toddler looking at a picture of a cup in the article "[Now The Humanities Can Disrupt AI](#)", seeing this shiny new chatbot and shouting "Search engine! That's a search engine!"

When reading "[Now The Humanities Can Disrupt AI](#)", I was taken with the description of chatbots as "stochastic parrots," or programs that generate text based on prompts provided by a user without any real human-like understanding of the material. This inspired my goal for this assignment: to direct the chatbot to provide rationale for substituting the term artificial intelligence for something that better describes the program.

Toying with how to open the conversation, I decided to start by asking "what is intelligence?" to establish a working definition of intelligence in order to determine if Chat GPT would define itself as "intelligent". The result was a lengthy and careful response, with the most succinct sentence in the paragraph declaring that intelligence is "generally understood as the ability to acquire, understand, process, and apply knowledge to solve problems, adapt to new situations, and learn from experience." while subsequently listing 9 different categories for intelligence.

I was immediately overwhelmed, expecting a definition that was both short and authoritative, closer to what you would find in the dictionary. To direct the chatbot to provide a more elemental definition, I asked "what is universal to the forms of intelligence listed above?" The chatbot provided another equally long and cautious response, highlighting 10 principles that underlie all types of intelligence, some of which overlapped with the previous list provided (such as adaptability, communication, problem solving). The end of this response was particularly interesting, as it was nearly identical to the previous message and highlighted that intelligence is multidimensional, subject to change, and exists within a context.

I was stumped for a moment on how to proceed. I first considered providing a specific context to force the chatbot to answer the question directly, such as "what is intelligence according to freudian psychology?" But narrowing my scope could cause the interaction to stray from my stated purpose. I decided as a next step to investigate how Chat GPT knows this to be true by simply asking "how do you know this?" The chatbot revealed that the information is derived from training materials fed to the program at or before September 2021, stating its response was meant to represent a general understanding of the topic of intelligence based on the information it was trained on. Similarly to the previous responses, the tone was cautious, recommending that if I had future questions on the subject I consult with more up-to-date material as well as subject matter experts.

Having obtained some evidence for the [stochastic perrot](#) analysis by establishing limitations in the scope of the chatbot, I wanted to understand the process it follows to generate its response. My next query asked how the chatbot processes information differently than a human, and it

responded by admitting to lacking the ability to understand context, express creativity or generate original thought, unlike a human. Curiously, it also claimed to be without bias unlike humans who have personal beliefs and emotions that introduce subjectivity. This showed a gap, either intentional or unintentional, in the chatbot's understanding of how biases are formed by failing to identify that if bias exists in the training data, then it would be operating with bias.

Now that I found rationale for my stated goal, I wanted to connect back to the original question I posed by asking if the chatbot would be considered intelligent. The response was a reluctant no, going so far as to describe artificial intelligence as a metaphor rather than a true descriptor of the program that underlies Chat GPT. With this disclosure, I knew exactly what my next prompt would be. If intelligence is an ambiguous term to begin with, I requested the chatbot provide an alternative term to describe what is commonly referred to as artificial intelligence. The chatbot provided the terms "computational automation" and "computational systems", which describe the processes used by chatbots without inferring human intelligence on them, as well as clarifying that AI systems are tools designed to perform specific computational tasks, and not to replace human cognition.

If chatbots are simply stochastic parrots, as some evidence from interaction would support, I believe an important step in promoting a greater understanding of this technology is to use more accurate terminology to describe it. As companies and governments continue to incorporate these advances in automation into society, having a clear naming convention free of manipulation can lead to better conversations around the ideal uses and clear limits of this technology. If enough people agree with me, maybe in the future we can replace the term AI with CA (computational automation that is).