Artificial intelligence is rapidly evolving and changing industries all over the world, its already heavily affected entertainment, and has even reached as far as the healthcare industry. However one field that AI has been seeping itself into that can affect how future individuals operate, that being school. AI is being used by both instructors and students, even though AI is tempting because of its ease of use and efficiency, its growing presence withing education is posing a serious threat to the learning process as a whole. While AI may be helpful, the use of it within a school setting is undermining critical thinking, a genuine learning experience, and even the human connection that makes the education system more meaningful than words on a page.

AI should not be incorporated into learning environments, from Grade school all the way to Grad School, its use discourages deep cognitive development, it enables academic dishonesty, and it diminishes the vital role of human educators in ensuring intellectual and emotional growth.

Learning has always been a process of struggle, reflection, and discovery, which in turn leads to positive results. When students rely on the use of AI to generate answers, solve problems, or write essays, they are bypassing the mental effort that leads to understanding, essentially, students who rely on AI are ripping the oppurtunity to learn from their own hands. Especially in younger students, whose brains are still developing, AI isnt a tool that assists learning, it is one that hinders cognitive growth. Memorization, problem solving, creativity, all are sklills that are honed through active engagement with content, not passive consumption of AI generated content. If students are conditioned early on to rely on AI for help, it can very well devolve into reliance for answers, in turn they will slowly worsen the ability to think, to problem solve. Learning will move further into abnormality for them.

AI tools like ChatGPT or other chatbots can make it very tempting for students of any level to cheat, its the easy way out of any assignment. Why wrestle with a difficult essay prompt when an app can provide the writing for you within seconds? Why practice math problems when a chatbot can give you the step by step solution? This results in a culture of shortcut-taking, and it erodes academic integrity. However there are definitely students who use AI "responsibly", not wanting to cheat but just need assistance, that line that constitutes assistance and plagarism/cheating is becoming blurrier as AI continues to improve. Which

results in teachers struggling to assess any students real ability, and learning outcomes or academic goals become meaningless.

Teaching is much more than just delivering information to your students, it's about mentorship, encouragement, and human connection, nobody wants to learn with an instructor who just throws information into their face. AI cannot replace that judgement, or adaptiveness of a skilled instructor, people like myself dont learn well with nothing but information on a document. Human connection makes learning not only easier, but also more enjoyable, if AI becomes a replacement or substitute for real educators, students may become more isolated and adapt to that learning style of pure information on a screen, rather than engaging with instructors and peers. Education thrives through dialogue, feedback, and real human interaction, while you may maintain the information AI would give you, learning to work with others is a real life skill, and that is something that AI cannot provide for you.

Allowing AI to become a crutch for students, or a tool for instructors is not only going to affect a students learning in the moment, but it will most likely have long term consequences for their futures. Critical thinking, communication, and problem solving, are some of the most crucial skills for individuals looking for work, they are some of the most in demand skills. Yet these skills are exactly what is being skipped over by these students if they rely heavily on AI. If graduates are entering the job market having relied on AI to get themselves there, they will struggle to adapt to real world situations that require flexible thinking and independent judgement, this will vary in severity from person to person, but especially for new graduates, the schooling system and the students themselves should be prioritizing to set up a student for the "real world" as best as they can. If AI is in the picture, the students skill set is completely a mystery, to instructors, to employers, and to the students themselves.

Many argue that AI can support learning and offers personalized instruction, student by student, which is something that teachers may simply not have time for. Or that it can free up time for teachers to do more meaningful work. While this does sound helpful, it assumes that AI is accurate, unbiased, and capable of nuanced understanding. AI tools often make errors, lack cultural sensitivity, and cannot assess emotional or contextual needs. Mores, the more that students rely on AI, the less motivated they become to ask for

help or think critically. Rather than support education, AI risks replacing real effort, with meaningless automation.

From Grade School classrooms to University lecture halls, the rise of AI threatens to reduce education to a series of interactions between student and machine. This will not only damage learning, but it will devalue the human elements that make education adaptable. Students need to be challenged, not taking the easy route with convenient AI chatbots. AI has its place, in data analysis, in scheduling, in menial tasks. But it has no right to seep into the classroom, if we care at all about our futures, or future generations, AI must stay out from education.