

Exquisite Corpse: AI Chat version

<https://bit.ly/LLM-unplugged>

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Based on the classic parlour game Exquisite Corpse (see theNCBLA.org)

Setup:

Print copies of the Prompt & Response page, and pre-fill each with a prompt in the top few lines (ideas below). Add a paper clip to each sheet, and indicate at the bottom (a) the # of lines of text to leave visible as the paper is passed around, and (b) optionally, a theme or tone for participants to keep in mind. A very short prompt and very small visible window (1 line) tends to generate disjointed, nonsensical, silly responses. Allow more lines if your goal is to generate a higher quality response.

Optional warmup round: Tell a made-up story together, verbally around the classroom. Each person adds 3 (and only 3) words, and passes to the next person. The whole class can hear how the story emerges. Begin with the prompt: "Once upon a..." Bring the story to a close once everyone has had a chance to add.

Instructions for participants:

- When the paper comes to you, pick up where the previous line left off.
- Decide what comes next.
- Fill one (and only one) line.
- Use as many words as you like.
- Use any punctuation you need.
- It's ok to leave a sentence unfinished. The next person will continue.
- After you add your line, fold down the top of the paper to hide the oldest filled line. Keep the correct # of lines still visible.

Prompt ideas:

Just for fun

- On the way out this morning... [suggested: 1-line window]
- Canada's national motto is "Mari Usque Ad Mare" ("From Sea to Sea"). What would be better? [or: Make the argument that it should instead be: "Sorry, eh."] [2]

Students might use AI for: [writing prompts, answer-getting, text refining]

- Write a short story about a cat in a coffee shop. [4]
- If a modern-day person were to travel back to the middle ages, how should they use their future knowledge to improve the quality of life around them? [4]

- Some people claim that technology and medicine will advance so far, humans will eventually be able to live forever. Are they right? [4]
- I'm supposed to learn about Pavlov's experiments with dogs. Please explain his work in very simple terms. [4]
- Take this text and make it sound more formal. "... [a block of an idea laid out very simply] [4]

Teachers might use: [productivity, lesson prep]

- I'm having trouble with the school wi-fi. What are some steps I can do to troubleshoot? [2]
- I need an assignment for my Intro to CS (ICS3U) class. Can you create specifications for a program that does fairly simple command-line input & output? [4]
- I am teaching my grade 10 Digital Technology (ICD20) students about artificial intelligence. How can I explain it to them? I want a general definition, and a few instances of where AI can be found around us. [4]

Discussion questions:

- What did this exercise feel like? Talk about (a) being the first to answer a prompt, and (b) joining a response already in progress.
- How did you decide what should come next?
- Was there a prompt you had no idea how to address? A prompt where you wanted to add more than one line? What made it that way?
- Who contributed [a specific line]? Infer for us: was the topic creative or factual? Give a guess: what was the opening prompt?
- What is the connection to AI models? (ChatGPT, Copilot, and similar)
- How did limiting the amount of visible text change the task?

