Westborough proudly affirms the resolution In the United States, the benefits of the use of generative artificial intelligence in education outweigh the harms.

Contention 1: Teacher shortage and burnout

Pew 24' finds that 84% of teachers report that there isn't enough time to get all their work done. 70% of teachers say their schools are understaffed. Only 2% of teachers reported never feeling stressed.

Khalil 24' furthers that increased workload leads to teacher burnout.

Sage 24' states The problem is compounded by a growing demand for teachers. The global teacher shortage threatens education quality, with 68.8 million teachers needed by 2030.

AI solves

Cronin 24' says AI helps combat teacher burnout by freeing up time for teachers to focus on the human aspects of teaching. By handling time-consuming tasks and providing actionable insights, AI lets teachers reconnect with students on a personal level. This aspect of teaching is where many educators find the greatest satisfaction, but it's often what gets sacrificed in the face of heavy workloads. Studies have shown that teachers who use AI tools in the classroom report not only improved efficiency but also higher levels of job satisfaction. More than half of teachers who say they're satisfied with their jobs use AI in their classrooms.

Teacher shortages decimate educational quality

Whizara 24 adds "With fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and an increased teacher-to-student ratio, the quality of education suffers. Studies found a correlation between shortages and lower math scores; shortages also affect critical skills beyond the classroom.

Teacher shortages increase workload for teachers perpetuating a nasty cycle as existing teachers often have to take on additional responsibilities, which can impact student success.

PBS 22 states teacher shortages are disproportionately hurting low-income schools.
"The educators in [underfunded] places do the best they can, but they can't keep standing in every gap where all the systems have failed those students and their families. They can't do it. And so we see the shortages being higher there than they are in other places because of the chronic underfunding,"

Contention 2: Closes learning gaps at underfunded schools

Right now, Underfunded schools can't provide a proper education, resulting in severe disparities. Generative AI helps close that gap.

Generative AI improves education in rural and underfunded areas.

Vocal ‘24 states “One of the challenges that have taken long to be addressed is the educational divide between rural and urban areas. Almost all rural schools have more challenging obstacles, including underfunding, lack of skills in teachers, and constraints on access to modern educational resources such as technology and digital learning tools. All these factors interfere with the learning process and can cause a significant disparity between students in rural settings and those from the city.

Due to this, poor or rural students are often lagged behind, staying behind in academics and losing opportunities that could have paved the way for bright futures. However, this hope for much-needed bridging of the gap has increased with the development of AI technology. For instance, education solutions custom-fit to students’ needs can easily be rendered possible through AI”

Porter ‘22 finds [underfunding] impacts a student’s ability to get a proper and thorough education.

Generative AI is key to reaching underfunded areas.

The digital divide presents a significant barrier to equitable access to higher education. Generative AI technologies can address these challenges by expanding educational opportunities. Generative AI has the potential to revolutionize educational access by providing scalable and personalized learning solutions. By leveraging generative AI, educational institutions in developing regions can overcome the shortage of qualified educators and inadequate technological infrastructure. Generative AI can provide virtual tutoring, assist in the development of low-cost educational resources, and democratize higher education. (Olusegun 24’).

This is drastic

Bradley ‘22 states:

The achievement gap affects students by increasing dropout rates. costing the US nearly $700 billion annually. It reduces the potential of thousands of profitable workers and damages the US economy. Poor school performance in lower-income students perpetuates poverty through higher dropout rates and impeded employment.

Bivens ‘23 states:

Income inequality in the United States is shifting an ever larger share of income to rich households. Rising inequality has slowed growth by 2 to 4 percentage points of GDP annually in recent years. The inequality-induced drag on demand would translate directly into slower economic growth overall.

This is drastic as Bezruchka 14 quantifies: **One** in every **three** deaths in the U.S. results from inequality

Thus, Gerry and I are proud to affirm, Thank you.