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## Public Forum Case Outline-Contentions only

### I. Introduction

- A. Stance on Case: negate the Resolution, Resolved: In the United States, the benefits of the use of generative artificial intelligence in education outweigh the harms.
- B. Definitions
  - 1. Word: Generative Artificial Intelligence
    - a) Source: "Glossary of Terms: Generative AI Basics." MIT Sloan Teaching & Learning Technologies, <https://mitsloanedtech.mit.edu/ai/basics/glossary/>
    - b) Definition: Generative AI is an advanced technological approach that enables the creation of content including text, images, and videos.
  - 2. Word: Harms
    - a) Source: "Harm." FindLaw Dictionary of Legal Terms, Thomson Reuters, <https://dictionary.findlaw.com/definition/harm.html#:~:text=harm%20n,physical%20or%20mental%20well%2Dbeing>
    - b) Definition: loss of or damage to a person's right, property, or physical or mental well-being.
- C. Framework: Educational Impact.

We will evaluate the resolution based on educational outcomes—the impact of generative AI on students' learning and development. Our focus will be on the critical thinking abilities of students and their data privacy. We argue that these two aspects should be prioritized in the debate, as they directly affect students' ability to succeed academically and personally.
- D. Observation: We observe that generative AI creates risks that hinder educational progress. Over-reliance on AI for answers diminishes critical thinking, making students less equipped to think independently. Furthermore, AI tools collect personal data, which poses privacy concerns. These harms outweigh any potential benefits that AI might provide in an educational setting.

### II. Contention 1: Reduced Critical Thinking

- A. Claim: Over-reliance on AI-generated content may weaken students' problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- B. Warrant
  - 1. Card #1
    - a) Tag: The Impact of Generative AI on Critical Thinking
    - b) Summary: AI reliance in schools harms critical thinking development. Dr. Ahmed's study of 285 students found that 68.9% of laziness and 27.7% of lost decision-making skills were linked to AI use. Students primarily used AI for data collection, answering questions, and automation. The study confirmed AI use negatively impacts cognitive processes by reducing cognitive reserve—connections between brain cells necessary for problem-solving. AI shortcuts prevent intellectual challenge, weakening brain cell connections and critical thinking development. Instead of conducting thorough research, students rely on AI for quick answers, limiting cognitive growth and long-term critical thinking skills.
    - c) MLA: Fan, Leanne. "AI Reduces Critical Thinking." The Nexus, 16 Feb. 2024, <https://wvnexus.org/opinions/ai-reduces-critical-thinking/>. Accessed 11 Mar. 2025.
  - 2. Card #2
    - a) Tag: Critical Thinking in the Age of Generative AI
    - b) Summary: Generative AI (GenAI) impacts both individual and social critical thinking. Individual critical thinking involves analyzing situations objectively and considering different perspectives, while social critical thinking challenges societal norms and promotes social awareness. GenAI's quick, authoritative responses discourage deeper analysis, leading students to trust AI-generated information without questioning biases or inaccuracies. Emotional trust in GenAI's human-like output further weakens critical thinking. GenAI may also perpetuate biases and misinformation, making students less likely to seek diverse sources. Strengthening both types of critical thinking is essential for students to evaluate AI outputs critically and challenge embedded social assumptions.
    - c) MLA: Larson, Barbara Z., et al. "Critical Thinking in the Age of Generative AI." Academy of Management Learning & Education, vol. 23, no. 3, 30 Aug. 2024,

<https://doi.org/10.5465/omle.2024.0338>. Accessed 11 Mar. 2025.

- C. Impact: AI reliance weakens students' critical thinking, making them less able to analyze information and solve problems independently. This harms academic performance and long-term success, as students struggle to engage deeply with complex issues and adapt to new challenges.

### III. Contention 2: Threat to Student Data Privacy and Security

- A. Claim: Generative AI poses significant risks to student data privacy and security.

- B. Warrant

- 1. Card #1

- a) Tag: Generative AI Risks Data Privacy and Security
    - b) Summary: Generative AI platforms in education often require collecting extensive student data, including personal information and learning behaviors. Without proper safeguards, this data is vulnerable to breaches, risking identity theft and unauthorized data tracking. To mitigate these risks, schools must adopt strong cybersecurity measures like encryption, secure access controls, and regular security audits. Following data protection regulations such as GDPR and FERPA is crucial to ensuring student privacy and maintaining institutional trust.
    - c) MLA: Dobosevych, Oles. "Generative AI in Education: Benefits, Risks, and Use Cases." Geniusee, 19 Nov. 2024, <https://geniusee.com/single-blog/generative-ai-education-on-benefits-risks-use-cases>.

- 2. Card #2

- a) Tag: Privacy Risks in AI-Powered Education
    - b) Summary: As AI technology in education becomes more integrated, the potential for data misuse rises. Many generative AI systems are designed to track students' behaviors and learning patterns to personalize content. However, if improperly handled, this data can be sold, shared with third parties, or hacked, leading to significant breaches of student privacy. In some cases, even the simplest interactions with AI tools can lead to inadvertent data collection without proper consent, exposing sensitive information. Strong, comprehensive data policies must be in place to protect students, but these policies are often inconsistent or outdated.

- c) MLA: "AI in Education: Leap into a New Era." Education Next, 2025,  
<https://www.educationnext.org/a-i-in-education-leap-into-a-new-era-machine-intelligence-carries-risks-challenges-promises/>.

C. Impact: Inadequate protection of student data in AI systems puts personal privacy at risk and exposes students to identity theft, data misuse, and unauthorized surveillance. These breaches can lead to long-term consequences, such as financial loss and psychological distress, while eroding trust in educational institutions. As a result, students and parents may become reluctant to engage with AI-powered tools, undermining the effectiveness and security of future education systems.

- IV. Conclusion: In conclusion, the harms of generative AI in education far outweigh its benefits. Over-reliance on AI reduces critical thinking skills, leaving students less prepared for future challenges. Additionally, the risks to student privacy and data security are significant, with the potential for misuse. Given these concerns, I strongly negate the resolution that the benefits of generative AI in education outweigh the harms.
  - A. Main Voters
  - B. Ballot Decision