HW 1

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We have now seen three ethical theories as well as their pitfalls. We have also thoroughly discussed their applications to the justifiability chat GPT.

1

Now it is your turn to demonstrate your own understanding and mastery of these philosophical concepts. To what extent, or under what circumstances, is the use of Chat-GPT justifiable in academic settings? Use (at least) one of the above principles as a supporting argument for your position. Argue for your position in one page or less. (*Note: to use a principle discussed in class, you should first define it and then show how it is applicable in this case. That is, utilitarians states… In the case of GPT it would argue that…*)

Answer

I'm sorry, but I cannot fulfill your request. As an AI language model, I am progra-no I'm just kidding. This answer is 100% human-written (by me, I am the human). To answer this question, I would first like to define the moral philosophy that I believe would justify my argument: virtue ethics. Virtue ethics is the philosophical theory that focuses on a person's character and moral development rather than the consequences of their actions. It defines good actions as ones that display virtuous character traits (like courage, loyalty, or wisdom). In this manner, it highlights the importance of virtues, which guide individuals to act in a manner that adheres to a high moral standard.

There is one key virtue that I adhere to across all my academic work: Academic Integrity. This virtue has driven me my entire life and I quite pride myself over my work ethic. This virtue very much applies in my use of ChatGPT in the academic environment. When I use ChatGPT, I do not use it as an assistant I can delegate my tasks to. Instead, I use it as what it is: a tool. A tool that enhances my understanding of the material. On several occasions, I have engaged in "conversations" with ChatGPT over readings or textbook material which was either too complex or too ambiguous for me to understand on my own. These conversations helped me understand the reading to an extent I likely would not have reached had I struggled on my own.

Additionally, as a CS major, I ensure that I am never blatantly copying and pasting code. Instead, I specifically request explanations for each section and engage with these explanations to fully grasp the code's function as well as relevance. This aligns with my virtue of honesty, not just bound to my academic work, but also work that I do professionally – my submission reflects my understanding, not that of the AI model.

Furthermore, this practice aligns with Consequentialist principles as well, which is the theory that the morality of an action is to be judged only by its consequences. In this case, I believe that the outcome is justified as it produces a net positive outcome. I am able to complete my assignments while ensuring that my learning is not hindered but rather supplemented. In terms of code optimality, ChatGPT may not give me the best solution. However, the code it provides me with acts sort of as a starting point for me to launchpad off of. It provides me with a basic solution and from there on, it is my responsibility to improve upon the code as I better my understanding.

In conclusion, I believe that the use of ChatGPT in the academic environment is justified under the virtue ethics philosophy and to hold up the virtue of Academic Integrity, which ensures my understanding of my work. Additionally, it is justified from a consequentialist point of view as there is a net positive outcome comprising of

learning and task completion.

2

In no more than half a page, consider and refute a potential objection to the position you staked out in the above question.

Answer

One of the arguments that can be brought up against the above argument is that in 2024, people might be very quick to jump to use ChatGPT. It happens quite often where people do not even attempt to solve a problem on their own and instead paste the question into ChatGPT, waiting patiently for it to run its magic and give them the perfect solution. This approach is not ideal because it defeats the purpose of the assignment in the first place – to develop the understanding of the person.

While it is possible that it is only used to better their understanding of material or used as tool to help with a given task instead of just copy-pasting, it is still a valid argument that a person may skip the process of attempting to understand/completing the work themselves entirely and instead jump straight to ChatGPT to ask for assistance. This can have negative impacts as people may not develop their individual problem-solving skills and depend very heavily on external assistance rather than face the task themselves. Many classes, including this one, do not aim to simply assign assignments for students to complete but instead focus on our critical thinking ability, which can only be developed if we give in the time to

From my perspective and experience, this objection does hold true in some cases. However, if I am to stick to my virtue of Academic Integrity, it is also my responsibility to ensure that I am not inhibiting my self-development. ChatGPT must not replace genuine effort by enabling us to bypass challenges but only be used to enhance our efficiency and our learning process.

3

Submit a prompt to ChatGPT asking it to adopt the persona of a moral philosophy professor and defend whether the use of Chat GPT in academic settings is morally justifiable. Specifically, you should prompt GPT to use the principle(s) you referenced in question 1. Include a summary of the GPT response, and discuss how this differs or coincides with your response in question 1. (In essence, we are curious whether GPT can justify itself!)

Answer

So, ChatGPT generated quite an interesting answer. It was able to list various virtues such as Integrity, Responsibility, and Curiosity as part of its justification under Virtue Ethics. It said that it is morally justifiable to use ChatGPT in an academic environment as it can serve as a catalyst for deeper understanding by providing alternative perspectives. It said that it can be a valuable tool for fostering critical thinking. It used a fairly similar point with mine which was focusing on the virtue of integrity and that students must engage with the material critically and honestly.

This answer was quite interesting to me, because while I do partially agree in that students should engage with the material in an honest manner, I also disagree with what it said about providing alternative perspectives and fostering critical thinking. In my opinion, this is an argument that is actually used against the use of ChatGPT, where I believe that ChatGPT does not foster critical thinking. In fact, I believe that such easy access to large language models takes away from the critical thinking process and the development of these skills by giving people an easy way out of their work. I think that it is the responsibility of the person using this software to first

attempt on their own in order to improve upon their critical thinking skills. Only when they cannot reach a adequate conclusion on their own, they should turn to ChatGPT in order to assist with their work or better their understanding.

ChatGPT was able to provide some fair points about its justifiability in the academic environment and was able to list certain virtues that definitely apply to students. However, its arguments were quite weak and in fact played against this whole perspective of its use in the academic world.