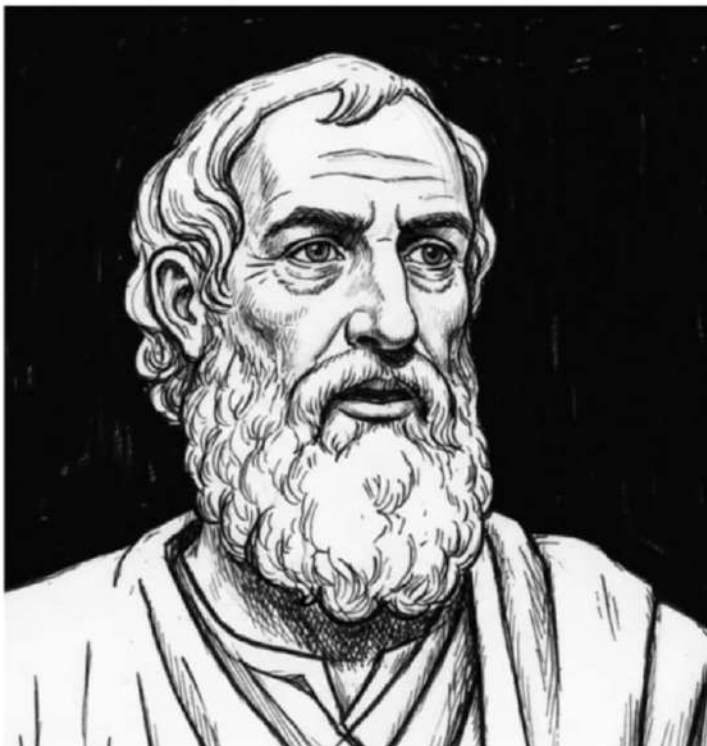


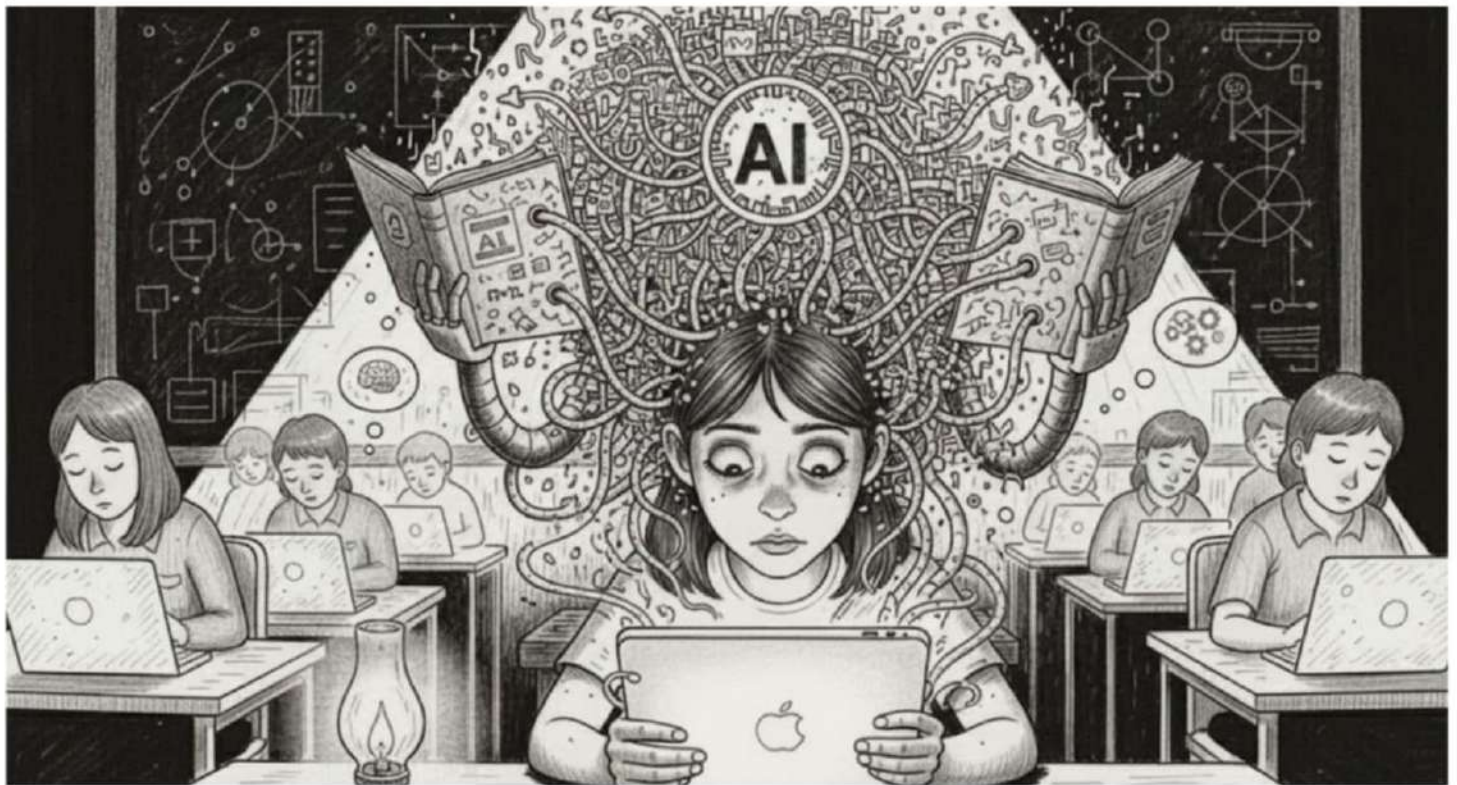
# Gradually Losing Critical Thinking : Students' Reliance on AI

In today's 21st century the development of artificial intelligence has been growing at a rapid pace. AIs such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity have been the dominant tools used by students these days. These artificial intelligences were released in 2022 and were increasingly developing at such high speed that students are using them more often to answer for their assignments, performance tasks, quizzes, and a lot more related to academics. Yes, it's true that these tools are very useful when it comes to helping you and saving a lot of time by just answering directly. But it begs the question, "Are students right now losing the ability to think critically and independently?" "Can the students even survive without the help of artificial intelligence?"



It is believed by Socrates, the "Father of Western Philosophy," that philosophy begins by questioning. This means that people should think more deeply and critically and discover new things. It's all about wonder and curiosity, which means gaining wisdom and to never stop learning. However, in today's modern world students are forgetting to think for themselves and to question "how," "why," and "what." Students would just copy and paste the question and paste it into the chatbox of the AI, which hinders the ability of the student to think clearly and generate their own answers. This causes students to not understand the question in depth because they would just instantly get the answer without analyzing the question more. Continuing this kind of habit can eventually make a person lose the ability to think, evaluate, and sound judgments. Since the most important skill for the humans is to think and critically analyze the situations.



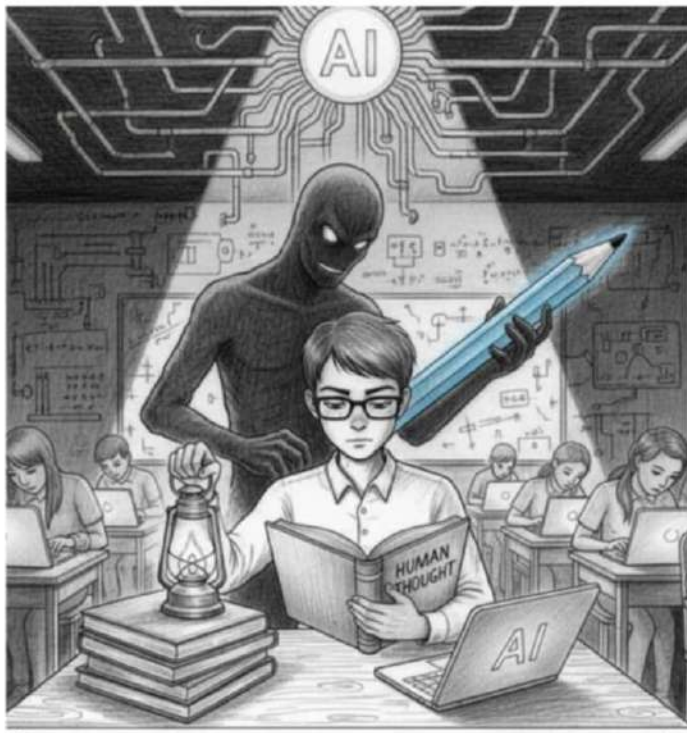


The excessive reliance on AI suppresses the "Freedom of a Human Person." As Jean Paul Sartre once said that humans are "condemned to be free." This means that we cannot escape the responsibility of choosing. Thus, we have the freedom to make our own choices and be held accountable for the choices that we make. The existence of AI is for guidance and provides us with the latest information, not to be governed by it, and potentially stops us from making our own reasons or answers. When we let AI make decisions for us, we are practicing dependency on what could potentially be our answer and our understanding, but we are stopping ourselves from making our own decisions and being independent. According to philosopher Amartya Sen, freedom is not just a choice but rather about having the "skills and capability of making meaningful choices," meaning the overreliance on AI hinders us from our own freedom. Most students nowadays rely on AI to write essays or solve math problems, preventing them from using their own freedom of critical thinking and problem solving skills. Having to make meaningful choices, creating and doing something with our own thoughts or thinking, is what makes us who we are; it shapes our identities or character.

Although, it is not wrong to use artificial intelligence since we are in a modern society that has been developing at a high rate with AIs becoming more frequent and common to use. Artificial intelligence does come with a lot of benefits; it can inspire you to be more creative and help you in understanding your lessons, guiding you in every possible way. But the problem of students is that they see AIs as a shortcut tool rather than a support tool that helps them improve their knowledge or expand more. True wisdom can only be attained by curiosity, effort, and reflection, which no AI tool can replace; it is only done by a human person alone. Socrates once said that "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." Wisdom is the most powerful skill because without it knowledge becomes meaningless. As students in this generation, especially when we are at our technology days, it's important to balance the use of technology and thoughts. It's really not a problem to use AI, but you must use it wisely and to never let AI take over us.



With this generation today, we have modernized, with the invention and presence of technology, which has spread throughout the world and is used daily among people. Everywhere we go, we see technology, and we ourselves definitely own a gadget. With the presence of AI today, most students have been using it mindlessly, not using their own human skills and knowledge, especially when they are writing an essay or answering a quiz. They have been overly dependent on its use as it gives them a quick and easy answer, saving time and effort for them. With this growing issue/problem today in this modern generation, these are the things that we need to know and practice with the use of AI.



As members of this generation, especially in today's advanced technology. Students should not make it a habit to rely on AI, since it makes a person's thoughts more dull and less creative. They should be wise on using artificial intelligence, seeing it as a companion, not as a shortcut. Remember that AI is just a tool used for guiding you in your studies, not for cheating and canceling your human thoughts.

### What We Need To Know:

**Recognize Our Humanity:** AI is a machine, they have no emotions, no identity. By the word itself, "Artificial", it is created by humans, meaning that we are more superior than them.

**Recognize AI as a Tool:** Being able to know what AI can help or do for us will greatly improve our knowledge and skills. As they have information that we do not know and then they will tell us or teach us that information into our brains.

### What We Need To Do:

**Use AI Responsibly:** Use technology with the presence of our own knowledge, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. And not using it mindlessly, AI is there to guide, help, teach, give information, and give us new knowledge. They are not there to let us lose our own skills or be superior than us.

**Think First Before You Ask AI For Help:** AI can detect any errors, help you, and give suggestions for your work.