

Will ChatGPT replace me as a writer?

There is a lot of discussion on the stock market talk shows about how to invest in AI. Microsoft recently invested ten billion dollars in OpenAI, the company responsible for ChatGPT. Google is spending a fortune on Gemini, its AI product. Then there is Anthropic with Claude. And there is Perplexity, to name another. AI has caught fire with investors. When ChatGPT launched, it was hailed as a paradigm shift, the first real, practical user-friendly application of AI. It's accessible, something anyone can use and find useful.

And so AI is getting a lot of press, but I'm not hearing much about the really important stuff, where else it can be expanded, how ChatGPT can be applied to a wider range of challenges? Can it write music or poetry? How about contributing new ideas for science and medicine? Will it one day make robots programmed to repair and replicate themselves? Might they then compete with humans for resources? What are the ultimate benefits and dangers?

So what is ChatGPT specifically? It's possibly many things, a poet, an inventor, a recipe creator... who knows? What I have done with it is to use it as a researcher. If I need to know what sort of gun a Mafia soldier would likely use, ChatGPT has a useful suggestion. But I don't want it to write for me. It doesn't write in my style. It doesn't think like me.

This ability to write well, persuasively, is a double edged sword for society. People may well use this tool to do their schoolwork, which is perhaps a significant misuse, but even more ominously, can it be used to manipulate people, write convincing, subversive racist tracts? Can it make advertising more effective? Can it appear to be providing truth while spouting lies?

To see what it does for writing, I will put the above short piece through the ChatGPT application and see if it makes it more readable, more succinct, more clear.

Revision by ChatGPT:

The stock market talk shows are abuzz with discussions about investing in AI, and Microsoft recently invested ten billion dollars in OpenAI, the company responsible for ChatGPT. This user-friendly application of AI is accessible to anyone and has been called a paradigm shift. While it is receiving a lot of press as a good investment, there are other important aspects to consider. For instance, can ChatGPT be used to write music or poetry? Can it contribute new ideas to science and medicine? Will it one day make robots programmed to repair and replicate themselves, potentially competing with humans for resources?

ChatGPT is versatile and could be many things, including a poet, inventor, or recipe creator. However, the author has primarily used it as a resource for factual information.

This ability to write well is both a benefit and a potential problem for society. While people may use it to improve their schoolwork, it could also be used to manipulate others by writing convincing, subversive, or racist materials. Additionally, it could make advertising more effective.

Is that better than my version? I would say, in some ways, yes. I think it sums up my points nicely, a little more clearly. But I didn't write it. It lacks my tone and my emotional content. Somehow it feels off and unsatisfying. So, in the end, this is not a way for me to use AI.