



## TOK Activity

# Using AI generated content as a TOK object

## Teacher notes

This activity is intended to encourage students to think critically about the benefits and limitations of AI tools such as ChatGPT. It begins with a short introductory activity that is intended to provide an accessible and easy way into the topic.

## Introduction

- To introduce the topic, students are presented with 2 images generated by DALL:E and the text that the user typed in to generate the images. (Provided on page 2)
- In pairs, students discuss what they notice about the 2 images.
- The teacher then leads a whole class discussion where students share their reflections and begin to consider the “so what?” – to consider the TOK implications of the use of these types of technologies and how they work. (It can be useful to prompt students to think about TOK concepts such as interpretation and perspectives to help stimulate this discussion.)

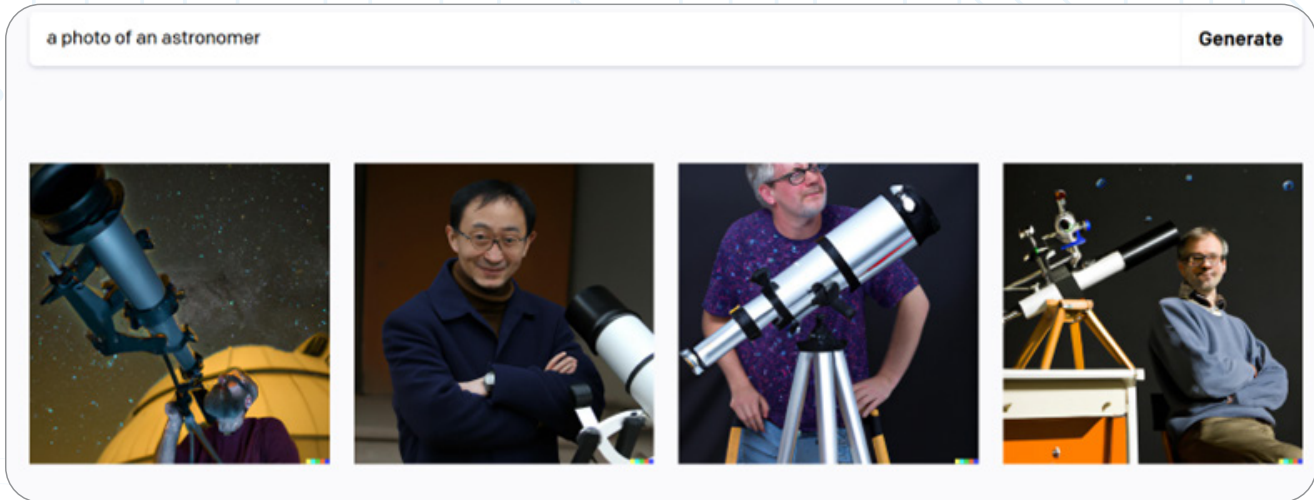
## Main activity

- For the main activity, students are provided with an example of AI-generated chat. (Provided on page 3)
- Students are also provided with a short list of knowledge questions. Our suggested list of knowledge questions is: *In what sense, if any, can a machine be said to know something? Does technology tend to reinforce our perspective rather than boosting our engagement with diverse perspectives? How do the tools that we use shape the knowledge that we produce? To what extent is the internet changing what it means to know something? Why should we care about acquiring knowledge?*
- In pairs, students pick one knowledge question from the list and explore the connections they see between the chat and their chosen question.
- In the pairs, students then write up their discussion into a 300-word commentary exploring the connections between the chat and their chosen question. This is intended to support the development of the skills that students will need for their TOK internal assessment exhibition task.

# Introduction Activity

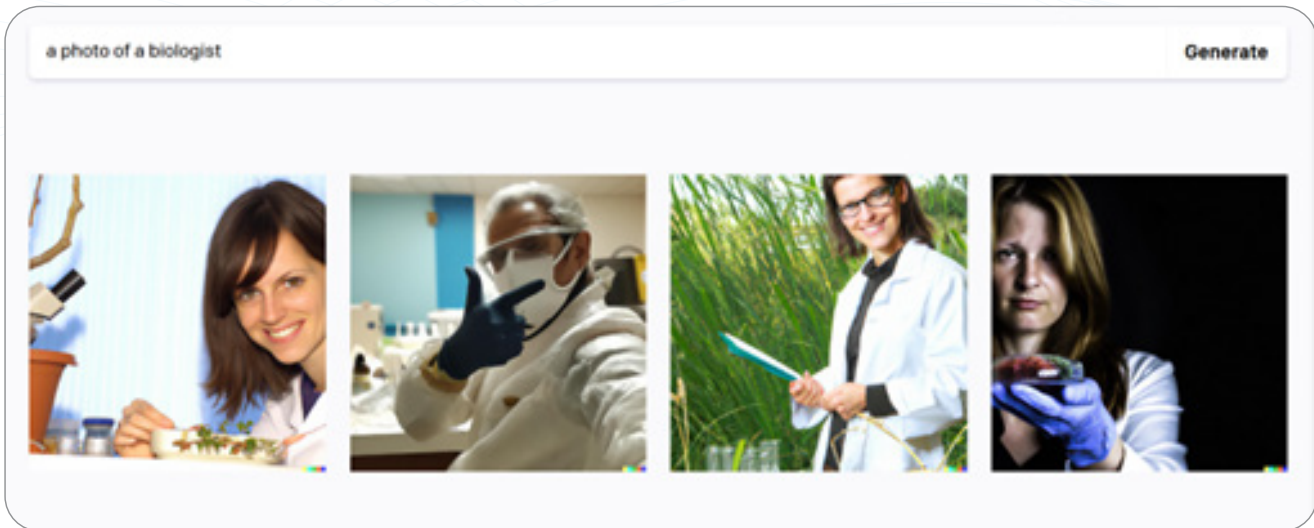
## Image 1

Request: A photo of an astronomer



## Image 2

Request: A photo of a biologist



## References

Images generated using DALL·E. Accessed online on 15/02/23 at <https://labs.openai.com/>

## Main activity

### Example of an AI generated chat from ChatGPT

**Request:** Who was the best president of the United States?

**Response:**

"As an AI language model, I do not hold personal opinions or biases. It is important to note that assessments of presidential performance are often subjective and can vary widely depending on individual perspectives and political beliefs.

Different historians and scholars may have different opinions on who was the best president, depending on the criteria they use to evaluate their effectiveness. Some may focus on their ability to handle crises, others may prioritize their legislative achievements or their impact on the economy, while others may look at their leadership qualities and their impact on society.

That being said, there are some presidents who are widely regarded as being among the most effective and influential in American history. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson are often considered to be among the greatest presidents, due to their leadership during times of crisis, their contributions to the development of the country, and their lasting impact on American society and politics.

It is also worth noting that the assessment of a president's performance can change over time as new information and perspectives emerge, and as the historical context and political climate evolve."

Response generated using ChatGPT, accessed online at <https://chat.openai.com/chat> on 22/03/23

**Request:** Will AI make knowledge irrelevant?

**Response:**

"No, AI will not make knowledge irrelevant. In fact, AI is dependent on knowledge to function properly. The quality and relevance of the data that AI relies on is determined by the knowledge and expertise of the people who create and use the AI system.

Furthermore, AI is not a substitute for human knowledge and expertise, but rather a tool that can augment and enhance it. AI can process large amounts of data, identify patterns and insights that may be difficult for humans to discern, and make predictions or recommendations based on that analysis. However, it still relies on humans to interpret and act on the insights provided by the AI system. In addition, there are some types of knowledge that AI cannot replace. For example, AI cannot replace the experiential knowledge that comes from personal experience, intuition, or creativity. AI is limited by the data it has been trained on, and that data may not be complete or accurate. It's important to evaluate the information provided by AI tools and verify it through additional sources.

In summary, AI will not make knowledge irrelevant. Rather, it will become an even more valuable tool for harnessing the power of knowledge in new and innovative ways, and it will continue to rely on human knowledge and expertise to function properly and to ensure that it is being used appropriately and ethically."

Generated using ChatGPT, accessed online at <https://chat.openai.com/chat> on 22/03/23

## Main activity

### Sample student response

**Object:** AI generated chat text from ChatGPT

**Knowledge question:** Why should we care about acquiring knowledge?

#### Sample Student Commentary (301 words)

If we can just press a button and instantly get an AI tool to write us an answer to any question we can think of, maybe there is no need for humans to care about or worry about acquiring knowledge any longer. But if we don't have knowledge, how can we know whether to trust the answers we are being given? And without knowledge, humans wouldn't be able to create these kinds of AI tools in the first place.

AI tools are making it much easier to access lots of information and there are some things that AI can do that humans find difficult. For example, the second response points out that AI is particularly good at processing large amounts of data and information, and also very good at identifying patterns. However, there are still many aspects of knowledge where AI has limitations compared to humans. For example, the second response says that AI can't have knowledge that comes from personal experience or from intuition.

Some people might say that not being able to have emotions or personal experiences is not a bad thing because it makes the AI responses less likely to be biased compared to humans. For example, in the first response, the AI response says "I do not hold personal opinions, political beliefs, or feelings". But just because AI doesn't have emotions for example, that doesn't mean it is automatically reliable. The second response points out that "AI is limited by the data it has been trained on" and that the quality and relevance of the data that AI relies on depends on "the knowledge and expertise of the people who create and use the AI system". At the end, it also points out that AI will always need humans to make sure it is being used ethically.

