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Writing for the social sciences

Working collaboratively with classmates while researching for my exigency paper helped me find a subject I otherwise wouldn't have chosen myself. I got to research and learn more about what the average person thinks about artificial intelligence. While everyone seems to become more intertwined with technology, such as social media and artificial intelligence, it isn't very common for people to share each other's thoughts on it. The source analysis we did in class aided in becoming increasingly informed on where the material the author chose for the article was from. Much like with any sort of background research, you can find the biases in articles chosen for their argument, for example, by beginning the article with Théodore Cazals's, 'Insane AI slop' account, Tidy is able to show how the public is growing tired of sloppy, unoriginal, artificially generated content. Authors choose specific survey articles and websites to perpetuate their argument. Joe Tidy does an interesting thing in choosing an influencer who shares complex thoughts regarding AI, similar to the ways most people can differentiate the flaws and strengths of AI. Tidy's ability to acknowledge the conundrum of AI being a potentially beneficial tool used to create lazy 'slop' like content, strengthens his argument; he can push the need for media literacy as a tool to help fight back against the increase in misinformation artificial intelligence media creates. The sharing of ideas while reverse outlining helped me delve away from my initial analysis and interpretation of the article being that AI has no real effect on people online, the analysis of the article my group members provided helped me understand the article was

more complex than just pointing out the inherently lazy design of AI ‘slop’ via the reverse outline I was able to understand the real consequences of AI content in spreading misinformation, harming children, deterioration of attention span and opinions based off of false information.

Collaborative survey design aided in coming up with questions I wouldn’t have thought to ask. I usually overcomplicate things, and by working with others and having them create efficient yes and no questions, survey results were easy to graph and cite in my essay. The survey results provided a variety of perspectives that weren’t what I was expecting. It appeared that most people had a complex opinion regarding artificial intelligence; people stated they could differentiate AI from real content, but nevertheless felt concern about the rise of misinformation or stated different worries, such as its impact on climate change. I was initially expecting people to be completely in support of AI or completely against it, but the results showed that the average user of social media believes the answer isn’t so clear, which shifted my perspective on the issue of AI expansion being so cut and dry. Understanding exigence, as a term for a sense of urgency or intense need, helped me write a paper that analyzed that while the issues of AI are complex, there is a clear need to gain media literacy.