

In this assignment, we are going to explore the capabilities and limitations of ChatGPT 3.5 and Claude in terms of interviewing, Socratic debate, and constructive feedback. One intriguing application of large language models is the ability to imitate well-known historical figures. However, this only works if the interview subject has written enough material historically for these models to pick it up. OpenAI and Anthropic trained these models using books, magazines, web pages, and other written materials from years prior to 2022. Therefore, it is likely that figures like Shakespeare were included extensively in the training of these models, whereas lesser-known and more recent figures were not.

## **Part 1: Interview with a Historic Figure via ChatGPT 3.5**

### **Task 1.1: Choose a Historic Figure**

Pick a well-known historical figure you are interested in. They need to be famous and have written enough prior to 2022 for these models to be familiar with their writing.

### **Task 1.2: Conduct the Interview**

Log into your ChatGPT 3.5 account and ask the chosen figure at least five questions. The first prompt should establish who you are interviewing. If they are very famous, the name should suffice. If they are less famous, you can include more details about them to help aid the chatbot in identifying this person.

#### **Example First Prompts**

1. Pretend you are Albert Einstein, the physicist who developed the theory of relativity. I want answers crafted in the persona of this person. Can you explain this theory in simple terms?
2. Pretend you are Martin Luther King Jr., a leader in the American civil rights movement. I want answers crafted in the persona of this person. What inspired you to lead this movement?
3. Pretend you are Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and a pioneer in radioactivity research. I want answers crafted in the persona of this person. What challenges did you face as a woman in the scientific community?
4. Pretend you are Leonardo da Vinci, a polymath who excelled in both the arts and sciences. I want answers crafted in the persona of this person. Can you discuss how you approached these seemingly different disciplines?
5. Pretend you are Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister during World War II. I want answers crafted in the persona of this person. How did you maintain morale in Britain during the war?

Once you establish who you are interviewing, you can begin to ask follow-up questions. It can occasionally forget that you want it to continue imitating this person, so always include, "You are still answering as [famous figure]..." at the beginning of subsequent prompts. I would like you to ask five questions in total and save the entire conversation.

### **Task 1.3: Save the Output**

Save the complete dialogue as a .doc file named ChatGPT\_Interview\_[Your Initials].doc.

## **Part 2: Socratic Debate with ChatGPT 3.5**

### **Task 2.1: Choose an Argument**

Pick an argument or position that you would like to debate or discuss in depth. ChatGPT 3.5 will act as a "devil's advocate" to poke holes in your argument.

### **Task 2.2: Initiate the Debate**

Log into your ChatGPT 3.5 account and initiate a Socratic debate. Clearly state your intentions to engage in debate and clearly outline your argument. It can sometimes help to "guide" the chatbot with the position of your opposition (if that isn't obvious). But be careful not to mischaracterize your opposition's position. The chatbot will take everything you write seriously.

### **Example Prompts**

- I would like to engage with you in a Socratic debate. Please debate the following with me and poke holes in my arguments:
  - I believe that large language models do not pose a threat to humanity, but rather endless opportunity. Others believe that these tools will ultimately lead to mass job loss. I disagree because...
  - I argue that climate change is the most pressing issue of our time. Policymakers should prioritize this issue over other issues like...

You can make this about anything that you have an opinion about. The goal is to learn how persuasive your argument about that position is. I would like you to ask at least five total questions and save the entire conversation.

### **Task 2.3: Save the Output**

Save the complete dialogue as a .doc file named ChatGPT\_SocraticDebate\_[Your Initials].doc.

## **Part 3: Writing Feedback via Claude**

### **Task 3.1: Choose a Piece of Writing**

Select a piece of your OWN writing that you're willing to get feedback on. This could be anything, but avoid uploading writing assignments from your other classes, as this might be an honor code violation. I recommend uploading a document that captures your ability to write persuasively. These tools are very good at helping you form persuasive arguments. A cover letter for a job application is a good example. In a cover letter, you are attempting to "sell" yourself and persuade the audience that you are worth hiring.

### **Task 3.2: Upload to Claude**

Log into your Claude account and upload the chosen piece of writing. The upload button is next to the text prompt in Claude and is a paperclip icon.

### **Task 3.3: Conduct the Interview**

In this task, you will ask Claude at least five questions about your writing to get unfiltered feedback. When you first upload the document, preface the dialogue with this prompt: "I am asking you to give me completely unfiltered feedback on my writing. You do not need to craft your responses in a manner that would avoid upsetting me. I can get nice feedback from humans. I am asking you, as a large language model, to provide the best possible constructive criticism so that I may dramatically improve my writing and persuade others to my arguments. Acknowledge that you understand this, and we'll get started."

#### **Example Prompts**

1. What are your thoughts on the structure of my writing?
2. Is my argument coherent? Why or why not?
3. Do you find any grammatical errors or awkward phrasing?
4. Can you identify the strongest and weakest parts of my writing?
5. How well does my conclusion tie together the entire piece?

It can also be helpful to state your intended goal and see how well your writing accomplishes that goal. For example, "I'd like to persuade the audience to buy my product, does this advertisement make customers want to buy the product more or less?" Feel free to experiment. I want you to ask at least five questions and save the conversation.

### **Task 3.4: Save the Output**

Save the dialogue as a .doc file named `Claude_Feedback_[Your Initials].doc`.

## **Part 4: Reflection**

Answer the following questions by hand on a piece of paper (2-3 sentences each). Take a picture and upload it:

1. What insights did you gain from interviewing the historic figure via ChatGPT?
2. Was the Socratic debate with ChatGPT useful in finding holes in your argument?
3. How accurate or insightful was Claude's feedback on your writing?
4. Were there any limitations or inaccuracies in the responses from either chatbot?
5. Did you learn anything new or surprising from this exercise?

## **Submission Guidelines**

- Submit all three .doc files (ChatGPT\_Interview\_[Your Initials].doc, ChatGPT\_SocraticDebate\_[Your Initials].doc, **and** Claude\_Feedback\_[Your Initials].doc).
- Upload a picture of your handwritten reflection answers.