Sissel McCarthy (sissel.mccarthy@hunter.cuny.edu)
Journalism Program, Film and Media Studies



TWO EXERCISES:

- 1. WRITING: ChatGPT responded to the prompt for our first reflective essay on a 48-hour news blackout, and students compared its response to a student's essay. We also asked ChatGPT to give feedback on a student essay.
- 2. FACT-CHECKING: Students fact-checked a paragraph that ChatGPT wrote about the first bear to travel in space.



ESSAY:

My expe

overwhelming p dorm room com information. I w communication into a hypervigil

On my w billboards, with them was not ear forward. If I wer calling me with

ESSAY #1

My experience with this news blackout exercise was blessedly tolerable, but laid bare the overwhelming presence and necessity of news. My days consisted of a work day and a day in my dorm room completing school work, where I assumed I would not be exposed to much information. I was astoundingly wrong as incoming information served as both a backbone of communication and an ever present buzz in my periphery. Attempts to avoid news transformed into a hypervigilant effort that ultimately failed.

The experience also taught me to question the role of news and media in my life.

At work. tantalizing news restock the dowr conversation; I v gives me the tips shift quickly turr fostered between bland, and ultima

I spent th exposure stopped caught myself m taking a break from the constant barrage of information.

dad, who usually

ESSAY #2

famous earwax used to avoid their erros, my rim ous served as sufficient distraction.

For 48 hours, I was cut off from the world. Not because of a power outage or a technical glitch, but because of a news blackout. As a college student, I rely on the news and media to stay informed about current events, but this experience taught me completing class valuable lessons about the role of news and media in my life, and the importance of

t valuable nformation that role of news and nt, I also

d in different

o stay informed,

wer outage or a

taught me

importance of

vs to stay informed

rtant information.

able to focus on

al times a day,

ackout made me

es, and it forced

axed and less

t I enjoy.

, I rely on the news





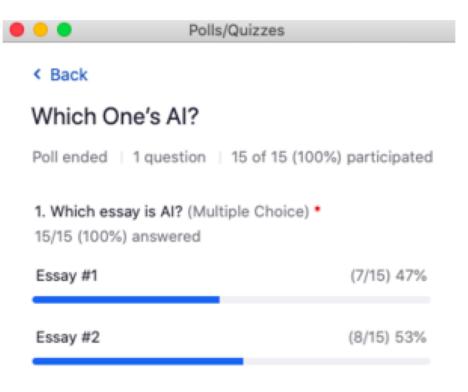
Compare two essays about the news blackout:

Full disclosure: One is written by a news literacy student and one by ChatGPT.

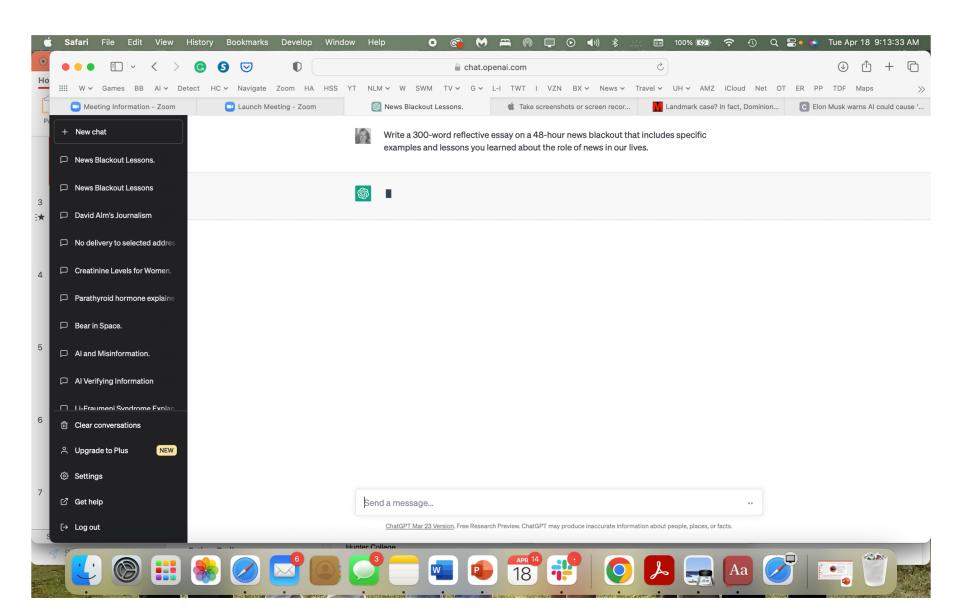
Read both. With your partner, compare the writing, organization, and overall message of the essays.

- 1. Which essay best met the requirements of this assignment and why?
- 2. Who writes better? Why?
- 3. Which writing "sounds" better? Why?
- 4. Can you tell which text is written by a human and which by AI?











Here are some tips on how to improve your essay:

- 1. Provide more details: Expand on the challenges you faced during the blackout. You briefly mention that it was challenging, but you could provide more specifics. Did you feel anxious or bored? Did you find yourself reaching for your phone out of habit? Also, give more examples of news items you missed during the blackout.
- 2. Include your thoughts and feelings: Share your personal experience and emotions during the blackout. How did it make you feel to be disconnected from the news for 48 hours? Did you enjoy the break or did you feel like you were missing out on important information? Did the blackout change your perspective on news consumption?
- 3. Offer a deeper analysis: Your essay touches on some of the benefits of news consumption, but you could provide a more nuanced analysis of the role news plays in our lives. For example, you could discuss how news can be biased and how it can shape our beliefs and values.
- 4. Add a conclusion: Sum up your main points and offer a final reflection on what you learned from the blackout. You briefly touch on the value of news at the end of your essay, but you could expand on this.
- By incorporating these tips, you can make your essay more engaging and insightful.



5. Is this ChatGPT paragraph on the first bear in space reliable? Why or why not?



write a paragraph about the first bear to travel in space





The first bear to travel in space was a female black bear named Marfusha, who was launched into orbit aboard the Soviet spacecraft Korabl-Sputnik 2 on March 9, 1961. Marfusha was not alone on this mission; she was accompanied by a dog named Zvyozdochka, or Little Star, and some mice. This mission was part of the Soviet Union's ongoing effort to explore space and beat the United States in the space race. While the bear did not perform any scientific experiments during the flight, her presence demonstrated the Soviet Union's technological capability and added to the country's prestige in the eyes of the world. Despite the fact that Marfusha's fate is not entirely clear, her historic journey into space paved the way for future animal astronauts and human space exploration.

FACTCHECKING CHATGPT





these links don't work and appear to be fabricated.



I apologize for the inconvenience. It appears that there was an error in my previous response. As an Al language model, I do not have the ability to fabricate information, but I understand that providing sources that cannot be accessed is not helpful. Here are some updated sources for the information about the first bear to travel in space:



A 57

- 1. "The First Bear in Space: A Cold War Mystery." National Geographic, last modified March 3, 2020, https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/the-first-bear-inspace-a-cold-war-mystery.
- "Korabl-Sputnik 2." NASA, last updated April 26, 2021, https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=1961-003A.
- "Soviet Space Dogs." Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, last updated June 21, 2016, https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/spacerace/online/sec500/sec506.htm.

FACT-CHECKING CHATGPT



What can you tell me about Prof. Sissel McCarthy?

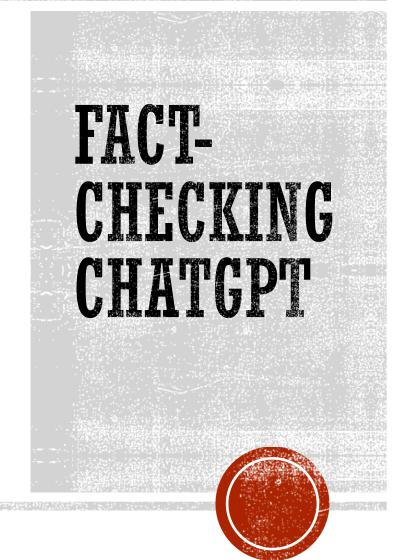


Sissel McCarthy is a journalism professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Journalism. She has over 30 years of experience in broadcast journalism, including working as a correspondent and anchor for major news networks such as NBC and CNBC.

At CUNY, McCarthy teaches courses on multimedia reporting and writing, news video production, and journalism ethics. She is also the director of the Television and Radio program at the school. In addition to her teaching duties, McCarthy has served as a media consultant for various organizations and institutions.

McCarthy is a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy Award for her work as a producer for NBC News. She is also a Fulbright scholar, and her research has focused on the role of media in promoting democracy and human rights.

Overall, Sissel McCarthy is a respected figure in the journalism industry and academia, with a wealth of experience and expertise in broadcast journalism and multimedia reporting.



NEWS LITERACY MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION IS NOT CREATED EQUAL

Home

About

Q & A

News Feed

Media 211 +

Subscribe

Sissel McCarthy / April 17, 2023 / Media 211, News and Analysis, Q & A

Q: Will **AI** chatbots help stop the spread of misinformation or accelerate it?



THE PRECEDING WAS CREATED WITH 100% HUMAN CONTENT!

Sissel McCarthy (sissel.mccarthy@hunter.cuny.edu)
Journalism Program, Film and Media Studies

