

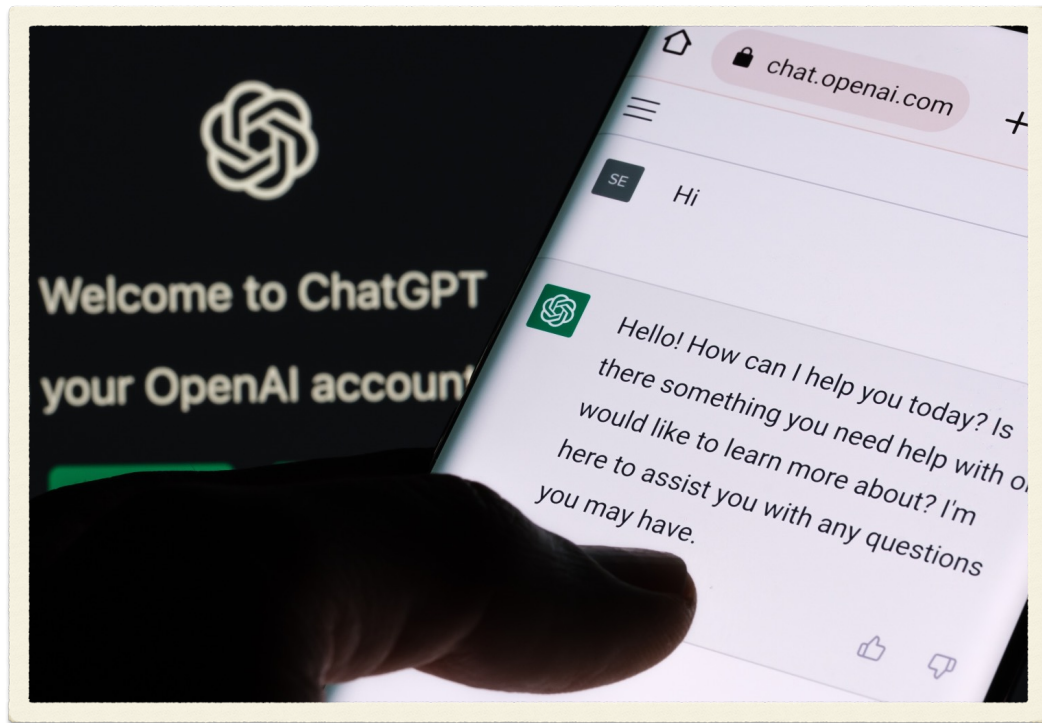
**FUNDAMENTALLY RETHINKING SOCIAL STUDIES
IN AN ERA OF CHATGPT**

WORKSHOP RESOURCES



JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM

JCunningham.org



CHATGPT

The Future of Education in the Age of AI: ChatGPT for Social Studies Teachers

In an era marked by rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Natural Language Processing, the field of education finds itself at a crossroads. As educators, we face a choice: to be mere spectators as technology reshapes the world around us, or to proactively engage with these innovations, asking critical questions about their potential to revolutionize teaching and learning.

The New Paradigm: A Shift or A Fad?

Harvard Business School professor Karim Lakhani argues that technologies like AI are foundationally altering the nature of organizations,¹ a transformation that extends potentially to educational institutions. The adage "You won't be replaced by AI, but by someone using AI" encapsulates the urgency of this discussion. Will AI and machine

¹ Interview with Karim Lakhani, "AI Won't Replace Humans — But Humans With AI Will Replace Humans Without AI" *Harvard Business Review* (online), 4 August 2023, <https://hbr.org/2023/08/ai-wont-replace-humans-but-humans-with-ai-will-replace-humans-without-ai>.

learning tools like ChatGPT redefine teaching methodologies, or are they mere technological fads destined to fade away?

The Challenge: Keeping Up with Rapid Change

In an ever-evolving technological landscape, educational qualifications in "teacher technology" can quickly become obsolete. How can educators stay relevant in such a dynamic environment?

What This Workshop Aims to Achieve

This workshop is designed to engage you in a nuanced discussion around these questions, offering insights into:

- (1) The current state of AI and machine learning technologies in education.
- (2) The ethical and pedagogical implications of integrating these technologies into the classroom.
- (3) Practical ways to incorporate ChatGPT and similar tools into Social Studies curricula.

We hope this session not only informs you but also equips you to be an active participant in shaping the future of education in this exciting age of technological innovation.²

² All material contained was written with the assistance of ChatGPT provided by <https://chat.openai.com>

ABOUT YOUR PRESENTER

John M. Cunningham brings a wealth of experience with 18 years in education, the last 15 of which have been spent at Douglas County High School. Here, he has taught a wide range of social studies courses, from IB Economics and IB History of the Americas to On-Level World History, American Government, and Personal Finance.

Holding a B.S. in History from Shorter University and an M.A. in Early to Modern European History from the University of West Georgia, John is currently enrolled in a PhD program at Georgia State University. His research focuses on Modern American History, with minors in Global History and the History of Science.

A frequent presenter at the annual Georgia Council for Social Studies Conference for seven years, John has covered an array of topics from utilizing pop culture as primary sources to exploring the History of Science. He has also worked with the International Baccalaureate Organization in The Hague, Netherlands, to review and rewrite the current IB History course and have provided consultancy services to Las Palmas Christian School in the Dominican Republic on curriculum development and faculty qualifications.

In an early recognition of his contributions to education, John was named Teacher of the Year for Bartow Crossroads Academy in 2005 and received the S.T.A.R. Teacher award from Douglas County High School in 2018 and 2023. In addition to his teaching role, John serves as a Social Studies Content Specialist for the Douglas County Schools System.

John is deeply committed to enhancing the quality of education in Social Studies in an attempt to balance the academic scales that often tip towards STEM fields. This ChatGPT workshop, is a culmination of trying to to showcase how Science and Technology can intersect with the Humanities, providing a comprehensive educational experience that celebrates and incorporates the strengths of both disciplines.



WORKSHOP OUTLINE

- I. Presentation - "ChatGPT: What is it, and should we be afraid?"
 - I. What is this technology?
 - II. Capabilities and Possibilities
 - III. What does this mean for us?
 - IV. Writing
- II. Activity: Get to know ChatGPT
 - A. Create an account
 - B. Have some conversations: Ask questions to ChatGPT and evaluate its responses to get more acquainted with the capabilities and possibilities.
 - C. Discussion
 - 1. What impressed you?
 - 2. What surprised you?
 - 3. What disappointed you?
- III. Tips for prompting ChatGPT
 - A. P.R.E.P.*
 - B. Using AI Responsibly
- IV. Activity: Essays
 - A. Generate Research Questions / Essay Topics
 - B. Generate Essays and Grade Them
 - C. Grade Student Essay and Argue with ChatGPT

IV. Thesis Building

V. Discussion

V. Activity: Leveling texts for scaffolding learning

VI. Activity: Generating texts to explain concepts.

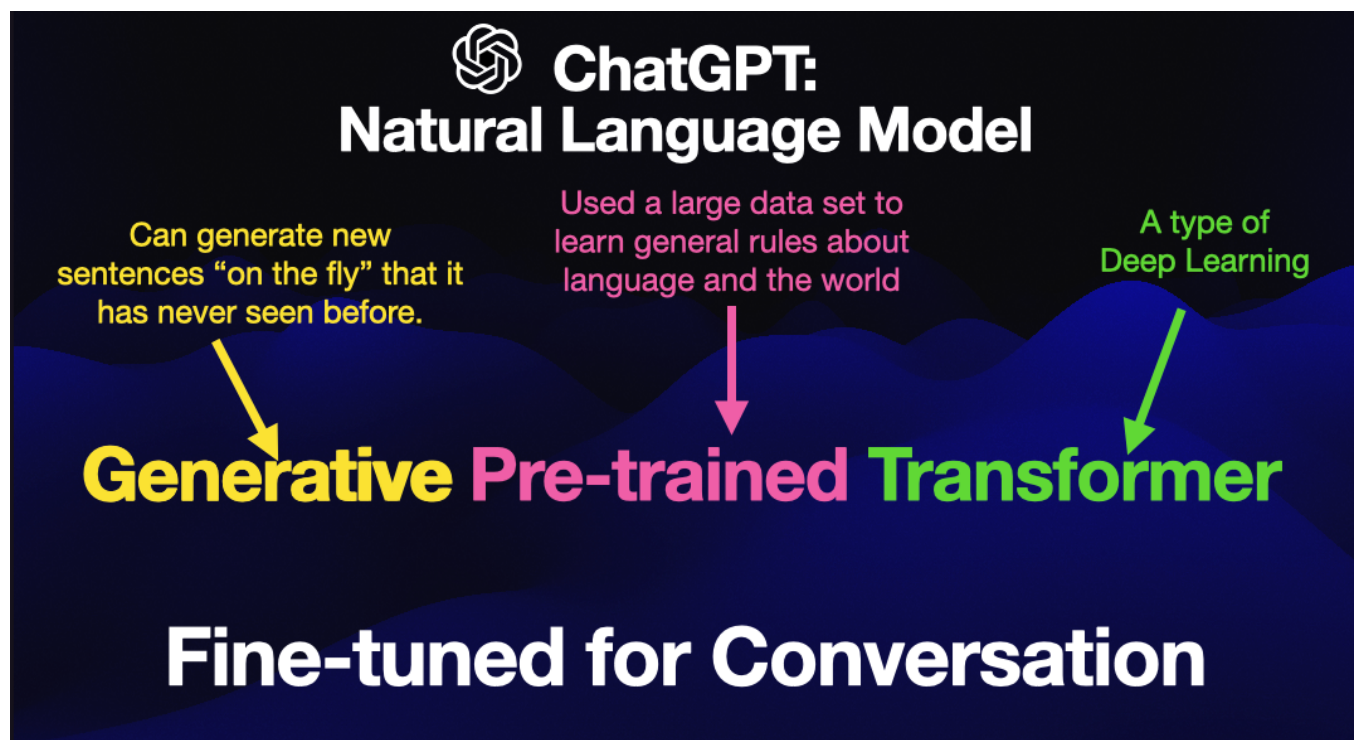
VII. Activity: Analyze primary source text

VIII. Activity: Fact checking assignment

IX. Redundant/Repetitive Teacher Tasks

X. The Plagiarism Debate

XI. Final thoughts/ Questions to consider



JC: Explain the Significance of the *Magna Carta*.



The Magna Carta, Latin for "Great Charter," is a foundational document in the history of constitutional governance and the rule of law. Signed in 1215 by King John of England at Runnymede, it was initially an agreement between the king and a group of rebellious barons. The document has had a lasting impact on legal and political systems around the world for several reasons:

Limitation of Royal Power

The Magna Carta was one of the first documents to challenge the authority of the king, asserting that he was not above the law. It laid down rules limiting the king's power and protecting the barons' privileges.

Rule of Law

The Magna Carta established the principle that everyone, including the king, is subject to the law. This was a revolutionary idea at the time and laid the groundwork for the rule of law in future democratic societies.

Due Process

The document included clauses that have been interpreted as early guarantees of certain legal procedures, like the right to a fair trial and protection against arbitrary imprisonment. Clause 39, for example, states that no free man shall be arrested or imprisoned without the lawful judgment of his peers or without due process of law.

Foundation for Constitutional Governance

The Magna Carta influenced the development of constitutional governance, not just in England but around the world. It inspired a number of other documents, including the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Cultural and Symbolic Importance

Over the centuries, the Magna Carta has gained a symbolic status as a cornerstone of liberty and democratic governance. Even though many of its clauses have been repealed or are obsolete, it remains a symbol of freedom and justice.

Influence on Common Law

The principles enshrined in the Magna Carta have been incorporated into the common law legal systems of many countries, influencing legal thought and jurisprudence.

In summary, the Magna Carta is significant for its role in limiting the power of the monarchy, establishing the rule of law, and laying the groundwork for constitutional governance. Its principles have had a lasting impact on legal systems worldwide.

JC: Pretend that you are George Washington and/or Thomas Jefferson. Have a conversation with me from those standpoints.



Of course, I shall endeavor to embody the spirit and mannerisms of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson for this conversation. Pray, what topic would you like to discuss with us?

JC: Were you afraid when you fought against England?



George Washington: Ah, the question of fear during the Revolution. It is true that the endeavor was fraught with peril, and the odds were not in our favor. However, I was guided by a sense of duty to my countrymen and the principles of liberty. Fear, while a natural human emotion, must not govern our actions when the stakes are so high.

Thomas Jefferson: Indeed, George. The weight of our actions was not lost on us. While the emotion of fear may have crossed our minds, it was overshadowed by the urgency of our cause. We were fighting for the principles that we held dear: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These were worth any risk, any sacrifice.

George Washington: Precisely, Thomas. The courage of the men who fought beside us, the belief in our cause, and the support of our allies helped mitigate any fears. We were united in our quest for independence, and that unity gave us strength.

JC: Can you make me a timeline of the French Revolution?



JC: Write a short 300-word essay with footnote citations using Chicago style, evaluating the impact of capitalism.



Title: The Impact of Capitalism: A Critical Evaluation

Introduction

Capitalism, as an economic system rooted in private ownership and market competition, has shaped the trajectory of societies worldwide. Its proponents argue that capitalism drives innovation, wealth creation, and individual freedoms. However, critics raise concerns about its inherent inequalities and potential for exploitation. This essay will critically evaluate the impact of capitalism, examining its effects on economic growth, social disparities, and the environment.

Economic Growth and Innovation

Capitalism's proponents contend that its competitive nature fosters economic growth and spurs innovation. Free markets allow entrepreneurs to pursue opportunities and allocate resources efficiently¹. Consequently, capitalist societies have often experienced higher levels of economic development, leading to improved living standards for many². Additionally, the profit motive incentivizes innovation and technological advancements, contributing to progress in various industries³.

Social Disparities and Inequalities

One of the major criticisms leveled against capitalism pertains to the disparities it generates. Critics argue that capitalism perpetuates income inequality, concentrating wealth in the hands of a few⁴. This concentration of resources may exacerbate social divisions, hindering social mobility and exacerbating poverty⁵. Moreover, the commodification of essential goods and services can create barriers to access for marginalized populations⁶.

Environmental Impact

Capitalism's environmental impact has become a growing concern in recent decades. The pursuit of profit often leads to the exploitation of natural resources and disregard for ecological consequences⁷. Critics argue that capitalism's relentless pursuit of growth can result in environmental degradation, including deforestation, pollution, and climate change⁸. Addressing these challenges requires balancing economic development with sustainable practices and considering the long-term well-being of the planet.

Conclusion

In evaluating the impact of capitalism, it is crucial to acknowledge both its positive and negative consequences. Capitalism has undoubtedly fostered economic growth, promoted innovation, and improved living standards for many. However, it has also perpetuated social disparities and contributed to environmental degradation. To mitigate these concerns, policymakers must strive for a more equitable distribution of resources and prioritize sustainable practices within a capitalist framework. Balancing economic development with social welfare and environmental stewardship remains essential for ensuring a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Word Count: 296

Footnotes:

¹ Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2003), 38-37.

² Angus Maddison, *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2001), 89-91.

³ Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), 78-81.

⁴ Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2014), 127-130.

⁵ Joseph Stiglitz, *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2013), 95-98.

⁶ Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* (New York: Placard, 2007), 212-214.

⁷ Kate Raworth, *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist* (White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017), 75-77.

⁸ Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), 45-47.



Governmental bodies inherently carry the responsibility for policy formulation with the intent to foster social welfare. Nevertheless, these policies occasionally manifest unintended repercussions that adversely affect individual well-being. With a focus on empirically grounded evidence, this essay will critically examine such phenomena. The government engages in a wide range of actions, and at times, some of its policies, specifically those regarding healthcare, law enforcement, and social welfare, have unintended negative consequences, leading to harm and distress among the people affected.

The Affordable Care Act aimed to mitigate healthcare inaccessibility, but some provisions have paradoxically led to inefficiencies. A study in Health Affairs pointed out that emergency room visits actually increased following the ACA's enactment, undermining its objective to shift minor health issues away from emergency departments (Smulowitz et al., Health Affairs, 2014). This surge in emergency room visits not only strains hospital resources but also indirectly increases healthcare costs for the population.

The federal 'War on Drugs' initiative inadvertently exacerbates systemic issues, such as mass incarceration and racial profiling, which it ostensibly aims to combat. Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow" illuminates how the policy disproportionately incarcerates minorities and perpetuates a cycle of community impoverishment (Alexander, The New Jim Crow, 2010). In addition, the economic costs of maintaining a large incarcerated population, which frequently emerges as a direct consequence of drug-related offenses, have become a financial burden on taxpayers.

JC:

Welfare programs, while constructed as safety nets, often inadvertently produce disincentives for beneficiaries to pursue employment. An American Economic Review study corroborated that extended unemployment insurance benefits result in a measurable delay in job-seeking behaviors among recipients (Kroft et al., American Economic Review, 2016). Moreover, **these disincentive effects extend beyond the individual, influencing overall productivity levels and economic performance.**

While the government's role in shaping and implementing policy is essential for societal function, a critical evaluation of these actions reveals the presence of unintended negative consequences. By dissecting these adverse outcomes across different sectors, this essay contends that the complexity and nuance of policy implications necessitate a more refined approach to legislation. Understanding these unintended effects is imperative for refining future policies and aligning them more closely with their intended outcomes of fostering societal well-being.



The purpose of social welfare programs is to provide economic relief to individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. These programs are vital for reducing poverty and providing financial stability in times of need. **However, while social welfare programs aim to serve as financial safety nets for vulnerable populations, they paradoxically often create disincentives for employment, impacting both individual behavior and broader economic performance thus inadvertently discourage beneficiaries from seeking employment.**

The notion that welfare benefits deter active job-seeking has long been the subject of academic inquiry. A study published in the American Economic Review found that the extension of unemployment insurance benefits results in a measurable delay in job-seeking behaviors among recipients (Kroft et al., American Economic Review, 2016). This phenomenon occurs as individuals weigh the immediate, guaranteed income against the uncertainty and effort associated with job-seeking.

JC: The economic ramifications of these disincentives extend beyond the individual level, affecting the labor market and, consequently, economic performance. According to a report by the National Bureau of Economic Research, generous welfare programs can lead to labor supply reductions, impacting the country's overall productivity (Mulligan, NBER Working Paper, 2012). **Reduced labor force participation hampers economic growth, affecting the country's global competitiveness.**

In recognizing these disincentives, policymakers face the challenge of balancing the urgency of immediate financial support with the long-term objective of maximizing labor force participation. A study by the University of Chicago suggests that implementing a gradual decrease in benefits as recipients earn income could mitigate disincentive effects without substantially increasing poverty rates (Hassan & Manoli, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 2017).

While the disincentive effect is an important consideration, it should not overshadow the vital safety net that welfare programs provide. Research by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities emphasizes that most welfare recipients are either temporarily between jobs or are unable to work due to disability or family care obligations (Sherman & Trisi, CBPP, 2015). Therefore, the primary focus should remain on enhancing these programs rather than reducing their scope based on disincentive arguments.

While social welfare programs are essential for providing a safety net to vulnerable populations, their unintended consequences, notably employment disincentives, need to be critically assessed and addressed. The complexities involved in this policy challenge necessitate a multifaceted solution that both supports those in need and encourages active participation in the labor market.



Social welfare programs are crucial for providing financial support to the vulnerable; however, the disincentivizing effects of these programs on employment can have wide-reaching economic ramifications. While social welfare programs aim to alleviate poverty, **the resulting disincentives for employment have broader economic consequences** that extend beyond the individual level, affecting labor market dynamics, overall productivity, and global competitiveness.

The Labor Market and Incentives

The first level at which welfare disincentives operate is the labor market. According to a report by the National Bureau of Economic Research, generous welfare programs can lead to labor supply reductions, as they may disincentivize active job-seeking (Mulligan, NBER Working Paper, 2012). This shift away from labor force participation can have cascading effects on employment rates, wage levels, and even job creation, thereby affecting the stability of the labor market.

JC:

Impact on National Productivity

The second level of impact lies in national productivity. When people opt for welfare benefits over employment, the productivity of the nation takes a hit. A study published in the Journal of Economic Perspectives argues that welfare-induced labor supply reductions can result in significant decreases in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Ohanian, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2018). This loss in productivity can lead to less revenue for both the public and private sectors, diminishing economic development.

Global Competitiveness

The third level of impact is the nation's standing in global competitiveness. Reduced productivity and labor force participation weaken the nation's economic prowess on the global stage. The Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum indicates that countries with higher labor force participation rates often outperform those with generous but disincentivizing welfare programs in terms of innovation, market efficiency, and economic growth (World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report, 2019).

While the primary purpose of social welfare programs is laudable, it is crucial to consider the broader economic ramifications of employment disincentives that they may introduce. **The cascading effects on the labor market, productivity, and global competitiveness can compromise the long-term economic stability and growth of a nation.**



The Ripple Effect of Welfare-Induced Labor Supply Reductions on National Productivity

When the government institutes too many welfare programs, it can effect labor and lower GDP, decrease programs intended to help the vulnerable, stifle innovation, and lead to increased inflation.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): When people withdraw from the labor market to rely on welfare benefits, the pool of productive labor shrinks. This can significantly decrease GDP by lowering both individual and aggregate output levels. Reduced GDP subsequently affects the nation's growth trajectory. [Ohanian's study in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (2018)]

Tax Revenue: With fewer people working, the collection from income and payroll taxes diminishes limiting the government's ability to fund other essential services and programs, thus creating a ripple effect on overall social welfare.

Business Competitiveness: Fewer workers can lead to higher labor costs as businesses compete for a smaller pool of available talent. These increased labor costs can lower business profitability, leading to less investment in research and development ultimately stifling innovation.

P.R.E.P. the Machine

P :/ >

Prompt - make sure the machine knows where to begin. Introduce a question or a request.

R :/ >

Role - Give it a role to play. Is it critiquing something for you? Is it writing for a person with prior knowledge?

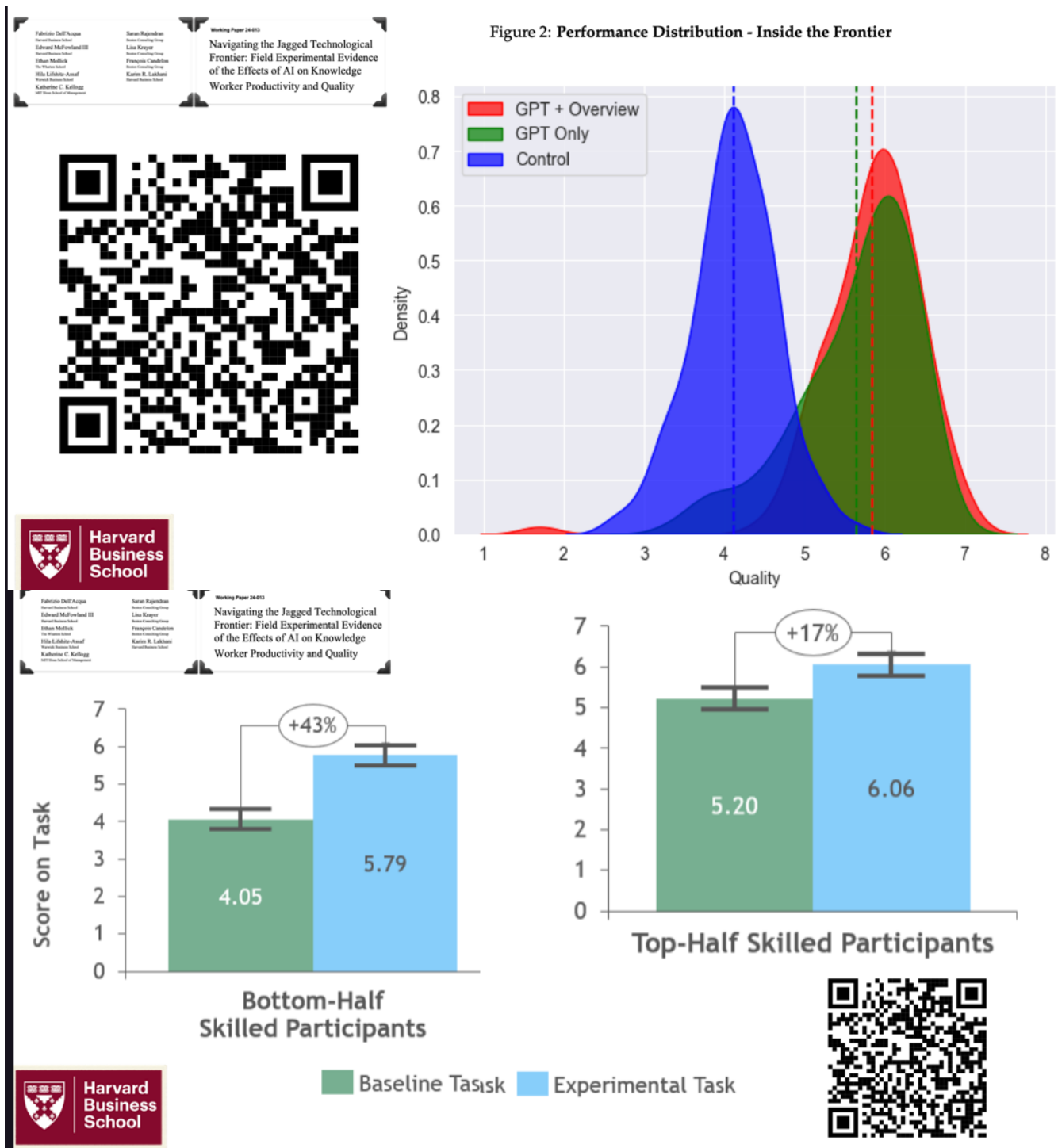
E :/ >

Explicit - Make sure your instructions are clear and as precise as possible.

P :/ >

Parameters - Set the limits (word count, number of questions, &etc...)

³ * Adapted from Joel Miller, "Embracing AI to Enhance Social Studies Education" GCSS 2023, Athens, Georgia, 27 October 2023.



⁴ Fabrizio Dell'Acqua, et. al., "Navigating the Jagged Technological Frontier: Field Experimental Evidence of the Effects of AI on Knowledge Worker Productivity and Quality." Working Paper no. 24-013. Harvard Business School. <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/sites/default/files/2023-10/SSRN-id4573321.pdf>.

Natural language models like ChatGPT, should cause us to
Fundamentally rethink *what is expected as we move into*

The Future of Social Studies

Now that we are in an era of ChatGPT



JCunninghamham.org