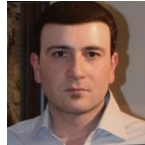




Assessing Online Writing Feedback Resources: Generative AI vs. Good Samaritans

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Introduction

Providing constructive feedback on student essays is a critical factor in improving educational results.



Feedback clarifies assignment expectations and cultivates essential skills such as critical thinking, self-assessment, and effective communication, which are invaluable for students' future careers.

Introduction

Delivering such feedback is challenging due to the need for motivating and constructive guidance while managing time and resources effectively.

- This task demands substantial time investments, especially when aiming to deliver individualized and informative guidance

Introduction

A comparative analysis of two **freely available online resources for students** seeking to hone their skills in essay writing for **English proficiency tests**

- [essayforum.com](https://www.essayforum.com)
- ChatGPT

EssayForum

ChatGPT



Research question:

To what extent Large Language Models can facilitate providing feedback to students?

Evaluation Data

Randomly selected 300 pairs of essays and feedback from essayforum.com

- Written by experienced and active educators on the platform
- Task prompt did not need any referencing picture

Essay about working from home - a new trend these days

kiseki 2 / 3

Mar 3, 2023 #1

Around the world, many adults are working from home, and more children are beginning to study from home because technology has become cheaper and more accessible.

DO YOU THINK THIS IS A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Thanks to the advent of technology in the modern world, the Internet recently has become more reasonable and accessible for everyone. Therefore, more and more people are using the Internet as a means to work and study from home. In my viewpoint, I regard this development as a beneficial transformation in this 4.0 era.

Firstly, the increasing number of online users will indirectly lead to better air quality. Since working from home just needs a laptop or a tablet with social networkings to communicate with others, it helps reduce the numerous amount of exhausted fumes from transportation like motorbicycles and cars as well as industrial activities. This has been proved in the epidemic of Covid 19 when some reports from China have shown the positive data of atmosphere with a decline by around 25% of carbon dioxide in that days.

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Mar 4, 2023 #2

The prompt restatement is very good and quite compelling. Your opinion is clear and varied in presentation. It is an exercise in effective word play. However, the same cannot be said for the reasoning paragraphs. That is where the reduced scoring may come from in terms of C+C considerations.

2 aspects for discussion were presented in the original prompt. The work from home and home schooling discussions were presented as the basis for the technological discussion. Therefore, your positive considerations should come from each aspects, presented in individual paragraphs, but using transition and connecting links towards the end of the first reasoning paragraph, then from from second paragraph going into the concluding summary.

Sentence formation also needs work since the second paragraph does not meet the minimum 3, maximum 5 sentence requirement per paragraph. This is a run-on paragraph which is not acceptable in academic and formal writing settings. The opinion paragraphs are not well developed either and lack further explanatory sentences to achieve full clarity and a convincing paragraph statement.

While the essay is well written during the first read, succeeding reviews will prove that the error was written in a rush and very little idea development in relation to scoring needs were actually completed by the writer.

Prompting with ChatGPT

Task description

You are an AI assistant that helps students practicing for English proficiency tests improve their essays. I will give you an essay written by a student. Write constructive feedback explaining how to improve the essay as a teacher would.

Prompting with ChatGPT

Few-shot

Provide 3 example essays, including one **strong**, one **weak**, and an **average** essay, and their feedback at inference time.




Prompting with ChatGPT

Rubric-based

You are an AI assistant that helps students practicing for English proficiency tests improve their essays. I will give you an essay written by a student. Write constructive feedback, explaining how to improve the essay like a teacher would do. You should focus on the following aspects in your feedback:

1. Is the essay in response to the topic?
2. Are there spelling, grammar, or stylistic issues?
3. Is the point of view of the essay author clear?
4. Are there clear and descriptive arguments that support the essay author's position or point of view?

Human Evaluation

	All education and healthcare should be funded by the government and free for everyone. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion ?
	These days education and healthcare are fundamental need. There seem a lot of debate about what the government should carry out to boost them. While some people argue that to reduce the figure for mortality and illiteracy, giving extra funding and free-medical treatment to education and healthcare is appropriate decision, other state this requires vast sums of money.
	<p>here are my few suggestions .</p> <p>....However, a negative side to this funding..., several sectors will be impeded owing to the lack of money.</p> <p>This paragraph lacks coherence. I could not get what are you trying to say unlike your second paragraph which is very well written with an example .</p> <p>Rewrite the conclusion and second last paragraph.</p> <p>Also the prompt asked you to agree or disagree, it is good you tried to mention both the aspects but still you need to agree or disagree with at least one aspect which you can state in your conclusion.</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The essay does address the topic of whether all education and healthcare should be funded by the government and free for everyone. However, it can be further improved by providing a clear answer or stance on the issue.2. There are several spelling and grammar issues in the essay that need to be corrected. For example, "demisees" should be changed to "deaths," and "illiterates" should be changed to "illiteracy." Additionally, the sentence structure could be improved to enhance clarity and flow.3. The point of view of the essay author is somewhat clear, but it would benefit from a more definitive stance. Currently, the essay seems to present both sides of the argument without clearly stating the author's opinion.4. The arguments made in the essay are somewhat descriptive and provide some support for the author's position. However, more specific examples and evidence could be used to strengthen the argument. <p>Overall, the essay has potential, but it needs to be revised for clarity and coherence. The author should clearly state their opinion on the topic and provide more specific evidence and examples to support their arguments. Additionally, attention should be given to correcting spelling, grammar, and stylistic issues to enhance the overall quality of the essay.</p>

Human study - Criteria

C1: Which feedback is more **relevant** to the essay content?

C2: Which feedback is better at highlighting **weakness**?

C3: Which feedback is better at highlighting **strengths**?

C4: Which feedback is more **specific and actionable**?

C5: Which feedback is overall more **helpful** for a student?

Human study - Results

Criteria	Human Feedback Rank		
	First	Second	Tie
C1 (relevance)	0	1	99
C2 (weakness)	44	13	33
C3 (strength)	8	46	36
C4 (specificity)	45	12	33
C5 (helpfulness)	38	12	40

Takeaways

- ★ While ChatGPT feedback is more encouraging and positive overall, and in many cases includes appropriate corrections and suggestions, humans are better at giving more specific and actionable comments focusing on the most important issues in the essay.
 - Feedback from different resources can mutually reinforce each other and are more helpful if employed in conjunction when seeking no-cost online assistance.
- ★ In a few cases, where the content of the essay was biased or included a misconceptions, these were not pointed out to the student by either human or GPT.
 - Online resources should be used with caution as they do not always provide the necessary quality control and oversight required for academic purposes.
- ★ Future research could explore the impact of students' language proficiency levels and writing skills on their perceptions and utilization of online resources.

Thank you!