Freshman Composition

Use of AI Activity 1: Can AI Write for Me?

Background: AI companies market their products as being effective tools for avoiding the work of writing and delivering a product *fast*. Some even suggest that AI can give us a voice in writing. So, let's test the claim that GenAI produces writing that gives us a voice by producing a *speedy* adaptation of Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death."

Directions:

Use Chatgpt or another GenAI tool to produce a 1000 word adaptation of Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death" that is as rich in voice, style, and significance as the original Poe or the Netflix adaptation. You may change or adapt your original prompt up to three attempts.

Once your group either a) feels satisfied with the output or b) has used up the three attempts at modification please reflect on the following questions.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. How does your adaptation compare to the original or the Netflix adaptation? Is there anything that feels missing or different in the AI text?
- 2. What does this exercise tell you about the differences between automated art and human generated art?
- 3. Given that we now understand the limitations of machines to perform certain tasks, what are some possible uses of AI? How could we use its pattern recognition strengths in ways that humans might be less good at? Let's brainstorm.

Previewing Next AI Activity:

You may already be aware that AI is having a detrimental impact on our environment. Given this fact and what we've learned today, what are some considerations we might make when determining what qualifies as ethical use of AI? Should we use AI for all writing tasks that do not require a strong sense of voice?