

A) INTRODUCTION

The sudden arrival of ChatGPT a few years ago revolutionized many aspects of daily life, including our relationship with writing. That is the subject of this opinion piece published in *The New York Times* in August, in which the columnist urges readers not to use AI for writing [not only to preserve our ability to think for ourselves but also to preserve democracy.]

B) PLAN DE COMPTE RENDU (4minutes)

§1-2 – The columnist is begging readers not to use AI when writing

Not for school/work/personal letters. Not even when writing emails

Don't have AI organize notes nor write sth for you to edit it afterwards

§3 - The wrong reasons not to use AI for writing

YET/HOWEVER, the reasons are NOT that it's immoral or because humans can do better.

- Immoral only when you don't acknowledge sth was written by AI
- Soon, AI will be able to write better than humans

§4-9 – The ACTUAL reasons not to use AI for writing are :

- Writing with AI will lead to a decline in writing abilities, just as there has been a decline in reading abilities
- Writing forces people to think and organize their thoughts
- Moreover, writing leaves a record → people need to be careful about what they write because it will be remembered.
- We need to get used to writing about important or meaningful topics. To do so, we need to practice regularly.
- The problem is, more and more people use AI to write, including PhD students
- It's not only about cheating

§10-12 – Beyond the ethical question it raises, this may **also** be a threaten democracy

- Necessary to be able to read and write about complex topics.
- The capacity of people to read, write, and think is already in decline, as shown by Pdt Trump's post on social media
 - o Using AI to write would only make matters worse.

BILAN : IN SHORT, not using AI to write not only preserves your ability to reason but is also an act of political resistance that can help save democracy.

C) **TRANSITION** This is a subject I would like to discuss further now,...

PROBLEMATIQUE DU COMMENTAIRE ... and I would like to ask if AI will replace human creativity and thinking abilities, or if it can only complement them.

D) **PLAN DE COMMENTAIRE (6 à 8 minutes)**

1- **AI can indeed weaken intellectual abilities**

- a. Laziness → less creativity / problem-solving
 - i. MOVIE INDUSTRY → rise of mediocrity
- b. AI is not culturally neutral → WEIRD bias → less intellectual diversity
- c. A lot of information is not reliable or even false
 - i. Can be dangerous for democracy
 - ii. Consider the amount of fake news and deepfakes that AI can create.
 - iii. The population may be easier to manipulate

2- **Yet, B. Stephen's arguments need to be slightly qualified.**

- a. Every new technology has been accused of weakening human abilities
 - i. Even writing (Socrates)
 - ii. Calculators (how can you fail a math test even though you have a calculator?)
- b. Not using AI for writing is just wishful thinking
 - i. Too late / It's ubiquitous
 - ii. Using AI to detect if a student has used AI = paradoxical

3- **Therefore, learning how to use AI critically is essential**

- a. AI literacy could be part of children's education
 - i. How to use it as a tool instead of letting it think for you
 - ii. How to handle AI-generated content with all due caution.
- b. **Yet, this may be easier said than done**
 - i. Although we are aware of the dangers of AI, it is difficult to actually resist the temptation of having it do our work.
 - ii. Liar's dividend → hard or even impossible to find out what is true and what is not.

E) **CONCLUSION :**

I understand the concerns raised by the growing use of AI in everything we write—and beyond. However, I fear that the idea of not using it at all isn't truly realistic, because it's already too late. It's better to try to adapt than to resist, especially since the rise of multimodal AI will only bring greater challenges.