



ARC MUN

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC & CULTURAL ORGANISATION
(UNESCO)**

**“AI: Tool or Menace for the Educational
System?”**

STUDY GUIDE

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CONTENTS

1. Welcoming Letter.....,
2. Introduction To The Committee.....,
3. Definition Of Key Terms.....,
4. Introduction The Topic.....,
5. Points To Be Addressed.....,
6. Actions Already Taken.....,
7. Useful Tips For First Time Delegates...,
8. Conclusion.....,
9. Bibliography.....,

1. Welcoming Letter

Honorable delegates,

We are more than happy to welcome you to ARC MUN 2025 and the UNESCO Committee, hoping for the best conference experience. We are honored to be chairing this year's UNESCO committee, since all three of us care deeply about education and the role of AI in it. Thus, our topic of discussion will be "AI: Tool or Menace for the Educational System?" as we hope to analyze the abilities of Artificial Intelligence that has latched on everybody's life as a helpful guide. Or maybe not?

This study guide was carefully made to help you understand the topic better. To provide you with useful information that you are going to need for your research, with terminology regarding the topic and many more. Be sure to consider the preexisting policies of your country and select with caution the information you will use.

Proper participation to the debate requires research and preparation. This way, you will experience a truly unforgettable ArcMun. We are available at all times for your questions or problems.

Warm regards,

The Board of UNESCO

2. Introduction To The Committee

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is located in France. It was founded on the 16th of November of 1945. After the 2nd World War, the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education met, showing the importance of education even right after wartime. What started as a conference for European countries

has since become a committee with 194 member states with one vote each in the UNESCO General Assembly. UNESCO's main goal is to maintain peace while promoting the importance of education, science and culture. More than 75 years since it was founded, UNESCO reaffirms the importance of its humanist vision to uphold human dignity.

3. Definition Of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence (AI):

This term refers to the capability of machines to imitate human intelligence. It encompasses systems that can think like humans and replicate their actions. AI is a broad term that includes using algorithms to help computers make decisions and solve problems.

Machine Learning:

This is a cornerstone of AI, allowing computers to learn from data. Instead of being explicitly programmed, these systems self-improve over time. For educators, it's vital to understand this concept as it can affect many educational AI tools.

Natural Language Processing (NLP):

This AI subset enables computers to understand and produce human language. It's usually used for easy essay grading, making it really popular among educators.

Neural Networks:

Think of these as the brain behind AI. They use algorithms to detect patterns in data, playing a significant role in "deep learning," a crucial part of machine learning.

Algorithm:

In the AI realm, this is the set of instructions guiding a computer. It's how machines detect patterns in data.

Large Language Models (LLMs):

These AI models are trained on extensive text data, enabling them to generate human-like text, answer queries, and even translate languages. Their ability to understand grammar and context makes them invaluable in education.

Generative AI:

This AI branch is all about creating new content, from text and images to music. It's reshaping content creation in education, offering personalized learning experiences and boosting student engagement. For instance, while Grammarly uses human-set rules to check grammar, ChatGPT employs neural networks to produce human-like text. Recognizing these distinctions helps educators choose the right tool and understand its ethical implications.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI):

Imagine an AI that can perform any intellectual task a human can. That's AGI. It's a future-focused AI concept where machines can apply knowledge across various tasks, much like humans.

Deep learning

Deep learning is a function of AI that imitates the human brain by learning from how it structures and processes information to make decisions. Instead of relying on an algorithm that can only perform one specific task, this subset of machine learning can learn from unstructured data without supervision.

Hallucination

Hallucination refers to an incorrect response from an AI system, or false information in an output that is presented as factual information.

Critical thinking

Critical thinking is the ability to question, acknowledge and test previously held assumptions; to recognise ambiguity, to examine, interpret, evaluate, reason and reflect in order to make decisions and justify positions

4. Introduction To The Topic

In the field of education, there are very few topics that are as important as the gradual introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the educational system. The opinions surrounding this topic are quite diverse, begging the question of is it ethically correct to use AI for educational purposes, or is it slowly starting to affect the students' critical thinking.

When we dive into the subject of whether AI is a tool or a menace for the educational system, we are faced with many questions, ethical, practical and even some regarding the Constitution. It is our wish that through our debates, we will be able to shed some light and maybe find some answers for the questions that have emerged.

A lot of people believe that AI is a danger for the educational system as we know it and that might be partially true. Many students prefer to use programmes such as Chatgpt in order to finish their assignments quickly without actually spending time doing them. On the other hand, through Artificial Intelligence, there are so many new opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to adjust in their classes, without feeling left aside or disadvantaged.

These examples represent just a fraction of the advantages and disadvantages of using Artificial Intelligence in the educational system. As delegates, your role in this debate is to explore this topic, weigh up the moral and legal implications for your country and the United Nations as a whole and strive to find fair solutions that respect the rights of your nations and the principles of education. We urge you to dive into the different sides of this topic with an open mind and a commitment to finding constructive resolutions that will shape whether AI and education will welcome the future together.

5. Points To Be Addressed

- Does your country have a general AI policy or strategy, or is it currently developing one?
- Is ChatGPT or other AI tools permitted for student use in your country?
- What role does your nation believe teachers should play in a minor's education?
- Does your country prioritize the development of critical thinking skills, or is it open to prioritizing correct answers over these skills?
- What is your nation's stance on children learning through AI?

6. Actions Already Taken

With the growing problem of AI making its way into education, replacing the vital role of one's critical thinking, and posing serious risks in protecting one's data, many countries and organizations have established frameworks and taken action to try and promote its ethical use or even completely diminish its usage in the school curriculum.

Amongst others, these are some of the most important actions:

- a) **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):**

A legal framework for the purpose of one's data protection and transparency, but also aiming to protect students from exposure of their data

b) **AI Act:**

Similar to the GDPR, the AI Act is a regulation that establishes obligations for AI based on its potential risks and level of impact

c) **UNESCO's Competency Frameworks:**

A new competency framework aiming to guide countries in supporting students and teachers to understand the potential as well as the risks of AI in order to engage with it in a safe, ethical, and responsible manner in education and beyond was launched on the occasion of Digital Learning Week 2024, when UNESCO's Guidance was also released. The UNESCO Guidance aims to set out the steps governments should take to regulate the use of AI and set out the ground rules for its ethical use in education and research.

d) **New ISBN Publication, a report commissioned by the Council of Europe:**

The report focuses on the behaviorist approach to learning which praises remembering over thinking, and having a "perfect" essay, regardless of the acquired methods (AI tools) over critical thinking abilities. It draws attention to the urgent need for education-specific legislation regarding the use of AI in education.

e) **Ban of ChatGPT:**

Several schools in the USA, the UK and Italy, alongside individual universities in France and India, have completely banned ChatGPT and prohibited students from using it. These institutions claim that even though ChatGPT provides quick and easy answers, it does not foster critical thinking or problem-solving skills, skills of utmost importance for lifelong success.

f) **"AI for the Common Good" a UNESCO project:**

This project launched by UNESCO focuses on three complementary strands aiming to address fundamental needs of learning through producing a report on AI-enabled futures of learning, develop ethical principles for the design, deployment, and applications of AI in learning and education, and create guiding frameworks on the AI competences needed by all learners to live and learn with AI.

g) **Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence:**

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law is the **first-ever international legally binding treaty**. It aims to ensure that activities within the lifecycle of artificial intelligence systems are fully consistent with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law while being conducive to technological progress and innovation.

7. Useful Tips For First Time Delegates

- ✓ **Get to know your country:** Learn as much as you can about your country, its legislation, alliances, opponents, etc., on the topic at hand. Develop clear and concise insights into its beliefs so that you will be in place to support them.
- ✓ **Be ready for any argument:** Apart from the speeches and draft resolutions that you will make, you should be ready to discuss the topic. You can never know what might be brought up during the conference. You shall be prepared to support your country through your arguments at all cost.
- ✓ **Do not use personal pronouns:** It might feel a little bit odd not using your personal pronouns, but you should remember that while the conference takes place, you are representing your country at all times.

Both during the debate but also while drafting the resolution papers, you need to refer to yourself as your country.

- ✓ Study the Rules of Procedure: It is normal to feel overwhelmed with all the different points and motions, even if it's not your first time at the conference. Make sure to check out the Rules of Procedure at the ARCMUN website in order to be more prepared.

8. Conclusion

In this study guide we tried to include all of the useful information and key words you are going to need in order to complete your research on the topic. Make sure to read all the important actions that were already taken and the beginner tips for first time delegates. We expect to have an unforgettable debate experience and we are looking forward to meeting you.

Your Chairs,
Avgoustina- Maria Balari
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