

The Use of Custom Chatbots in the Secondary Classroom

Custom chatbots are tools that engage with students in text-based conversations based on the criteria that has been determined by their teacher. Chatbots can simulate real or fictional people, inanimate objects or abstract concepts. Custom chatbots can allow students to get a personalized learning experience as students can ask private questions, request simplified responses, or even have responses translated to a different language. They allow students to interact with content and ideas in creative and increasingly engaging ways and allow for students to gain experience using AI in a structured and supervised manner.

Possible Classroom Uses

Social Studies

- Historical Figures
- Experts on a topic
- Eyewitnesses of an event

ELA

- A character from a book or story
- An author talk

Science

- Chat with a scientist \bullet
- Chat with a scientific concept

Chatbot Platforms

- MagicSchool.ai
- Chat GPT
- Google Gemini



Response: "During the Industrial Revolution, it wasn't uncommon for factory workers" like me to put in around 12 to 16 hours a day, six days a week. That means we often worked up to 72 to 96 hours each week."

"Whirls with concern...Listen up, because this is REALLY important for your safety! If you hear a tornado warning, immediately head to the lowest level of a building (like a basement) or an interior room without windows (like a bathroom or hallway). Get down low, cover your head, and if possible, get under a sturdy piece of furniture like a heavy table. And please. NEVER try to outrun me in a car or stay outside to watch – your safety is what matters most!"

'Chatbot as a teaching tool," Stanford School of Education. accessed January 25, 2025, https://teachingresources.stanford.edu/resources/chatbot-as-a-teaching-tool/. Ailler, Matt, "10 powerful ways to use custom chatbots in the classroom," Ditch That Textbook, April 16, 2024. https://ditchthattextbook.com/custom-chatbots/ *alk to students about AI*. Macquarie University School of Education. Retrieved February 2, 2025, from <u>ht</u> <u>ttps://www.mq.edu.au/faculty-</u>

Student-chatbot interactions

Transcription of an interaction with a chatbot of a Victorian England factory worker:

Question:

"What was the longest amount of hours you worked in a week?"

Transcription of an interaction with a chatbot of a Tornado: Question:

"What should I do if there is a tornado"

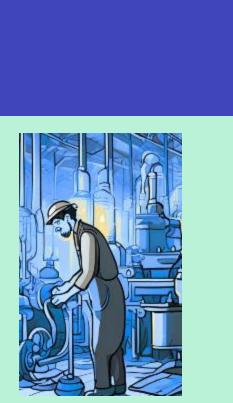
Response:

What about Math **Examples**?



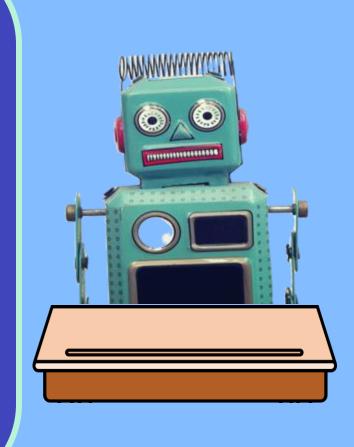














Why is this relevant for students?

- Teaching students to have AI be a thought partner makes them better critical thinkers.
- Being proficient in AI gives students a leg up in their future education and careers.
- Al is here whether schools want it to be or not. Teaching responsible use is essential.





Take our Custom **Chatbot Poll**

Gemini



Stephen Ford SUNY Potsdam fords208@potsdam.edu