Analysis of Student Survey Responses – Open Ended Question

Please add any additional thoughts or comments on AI:

Major Themes

1. Strong Opposition to AI in Education

Many students expressed significant concerns about AI's role in education.

Notable quotes:

- "AI should NOT be allowed in schools, or in general. It has horrible effects on the environment, creates lazy students... and is NOT accurate."
- "AI use is disgusting, shameful, and cheating on a level equal to plagiarism. It should not be allowed in any capacity."
- "AI has no place in academic or professional settings"

2. Environmental and Ethical Concerns

A significant number of students raised concerns about environmental impact and ethical issues.

Notable quotes:

- "Not to mention that GenAI contributes to global warming, even with things like ChatGPT it wastes gallons of water for information that can be searched up on a search engine."
- "AI steals original ideas from a wide range of people; from artists to writers."
- "I resent the harmful consequences that widespread use of 'AI' will cause for our environment and human creativity."

3. Positive Learning Support Experiences

Some students highlighted how AI has helped them academically.

Notable quotes:

- "AI has been a god send in helping me get through my chem class this semester when my professor has been little to no help with our class."
- "Ai has helped me master numerous difficult concepts by breaking them down into understandable sections. I find that it is better at explaining some topics than even the professors."
- "It has really helped me with my learning disabilities dyslexia. I used to proofread my essay or other points of views."

4. Balanced Approach to AI Integration

Several students advocated for thoughtful, limited use of AI.

Notable quotes:

- "AI can be a great passenger on the road to learning. It can be abused, but at the end of the day any tool that is available can be used for the wrong purposes... I drive the car, it rides in the passenger seat."
- "AI is most useful when limiting its scope to clarifying explanations or concepts from problems or checking your understanding. If you do not limit it, it will become noise."
- "I don't think the use of AI is inherently bad, rather the overuse of AI and underutilization of one's own brain."

5. Concerns About Academic Integrity and Learning

Many students expressed worry about AI undermining authentic learning.

Notable quotes:

- "I know someone who uses AI and doesn't study and gets good grades. AI should be regulated"
- "Kids cannot write in script, now they will not be able to form a sentence on their own."
- "I understand AI can be useful at times, but it is frustrating in discussion posts when people are constantly repeating the generic AI answers and not replying to create conversations"

6. Limited Awareness of AI Tools

Some students indicated limited knowledge about AI tools.

Notable quote:

- "I didn't know about any of the AI tools I wish I did know so they can help me with my homework"

7. Calls for Educational Guidance on AI

Several students suggested the need for guidance on appropriate AI use.

Notable quotes:

- "I believe helping students learn practical and appropriate ways to utilize AI could be quite beneficial students might get more meaningful insight into their assignments and better comprehension of the materials overall."
- "Integration and using AI to aid in learning should be discussed heavily; AI reliance is a horrifying thought"

Minor Themes

- Concerns about AI impact on future careers
- Fear about dependency on technology
- Desire for specific AI features (like discussion capabilities)
- Fear about AI's rapid advancement
- AI as replacement for search engines

Conclusion

The student responses reveal a complex and divided perspective on AI in education. While some students have found AI tools helpful for understanding complex concepts or supporting learning disabilities, many others express serious concerns about AI's impact on authentic learning, environmental sustainability, and ethical considerations.

Students appear to be wrestling with the tension between efficiency (getting work done quickly) and authenticity (developing their own skills and voice). Many of the responses suggest students are thoughtfully considering the implications of AI in their education and would benefit from institutional guidance on proper use rather than simply encouraging or prohibiting AI tools outright.

The passionate nature of many responses shows this is a topic students care deeply about, suggesting the college would benefit from continued dialogue with students as it develops its approach to AI integration.