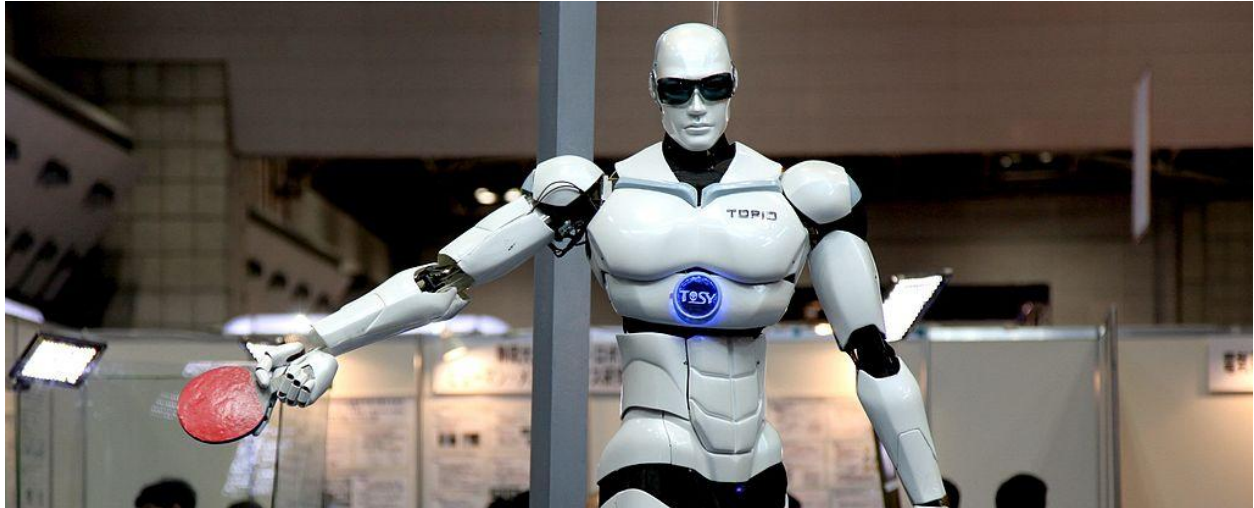




## Artificial Intelligence: A Rhetoric and Writing Reckoning (Part II)



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The fall out following the introduction of ChatGPT and other Large Language Model (LLM) Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues. The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) and the Modern Language Association (MLA) initiated a Joint Task Force to research the issue, which we profiled in our last newsletter. You can read more about the Task Force's newest Working Paper below. Additionally, journals in writing studies like *Composition Studies*, and in the subfield of computers and writing, like *Computers and Composition*, have already or are planning to devote space to discussions of AI and writing via Special Issues or topical issues. Now, we can see the implications ripple across different sectors, including in education, transportation, and entertainment, which is highlighted in the film and television industry by the SAG-AFTRA strike. The topic of AI is not going away and, as we wrote in our last newsletter, we hope that you will engage with your students, with your colleagues, and with us about generative AI and its applications in our teaching and research.

### White House Statement on AI

In America, the White House, led by the administration of President Joe Biden, has held conferences, listened to input from technologists, scholars and researchers, and other subject-matter experts who work with AI. These meetings have come in response to calls for responsibility concerning the rapid incorporation of AI technologies at

the corporate level across sectors and the consumption and use of these technologies by the general public. The White House issued a statement with safety, security, and trust in mind. What does that digital future look like? How is that related to privacy? Here is what the White House statement on, “Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI,” details their fundamental multi-pronged approach:

**Safety:** “Companies have a duty to make sure their products are safe before introducing them to the public. That means testing the safety and capabilities of their AI systems, subjecting them to external testing, assessing their potential biological, cybersecurity, and societal risks, and making the results of those assessments public.”

**Security:** “Companies have a duty to build systems that put security first. That means safeguarding their models against cyber and insider threats and sharing best practices and standards to prevent misuse, reduce risks to society, and protect national security.”

**Trust:** “Companies have a duty to do right by the public and earn the people’s trust. That means making it easy for users to tell whether audio and visual content is in its original form or has been altered or generated by AI. It means ensuring that the technology does not promote bias and discrimination, strengthening privacy protections, and shielding children from harm. Finally, it means using AI to help meet society’s greatest challenges, from cancer to climate change, and managing AI’s risks so that its benefits can be fully realized.”

You can read more from the White House statement on trustworthy AI here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Ensuring-Safe-Secure-and-Trustworthy-AI.pdf>

### **A People’s Guide to Artificial Intelligence**

A guide written by Mimi Onuoha (an artist, technologist, researcher) and Mother Cyborg (artist and organizer) in 2018 that provides accessible information and guidance on understanding artificial intelligence. This guide foregrounds a humanistic approach to technologies, recognizing issues of sexism, racism, gender inequality, ableism in digital culture and argues that “the path to a fair future starts with the humans behind the machines” (p. 4). As an informational booklet, this guide also offers interactive activities to allow people to engage more deeply with the topics. While this guide was published in 2018, before the advent of ChatGPT, it’s still very helpful in helping us understand the basics of artificial intelligence, algorithms, and machine learning. More importantly, it serves as a useful reminder of how AI technologies can be used to reinforce structural and systemic inequities as well as offering useful questions for us to consider how we can better design more equitable AI technologies. This guide can also be a good resource for introducing students to artificial intelligence.

You can download the guide for free here: <https://store.alliedmedia.org/products/a-peoples-guide-to-ai>

## MLA-CCCC Publish Working Paper on AI

The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) and the Modern Language Associate (MLA) have joined forces to establish an AI Task Force, chaired by Holly Hassel and Elizabeth Losh, devoted to understanding the implications of AI on writing. In July, the Task Force published their first Working Paper, which “discusses the risks and benefits of generative AI for teachers and students in writing, literature, and language programs and makes principle-driven recommendations for how educators, administrators, and policy makers can work together to develop ethical, mission-driven policies and support broad development of critical AI literacy” (Task Force). You can find more information about the MLA-CCCC Task Force on their website, and can read their Working Paper here: <https://aiandwriting.hcommons.org/working-paper-1/>

## Recent DRPC Publications

### Dr. Gavin P. Johnson

“Don’t Act Like You Forgot: Approaching Another Literacy “Crisis” by (Re)Considering What We Know about Teaching Writing with and through Technologies,” *Composition Studies*, Link:

<https://compositionstudiesjournal.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/johnson.pdf>

### Dr. Cecilia Shelton

Featured on *More than Memos* YouTube channel to discuss, “Historicizing Power and Legitimacy After the Social Justice Turn: Resisting Narcissistic Tendencies,” *Technical Communication Quarterly*.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-KQN0pzU3M>

Article Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10572252.2022.2141898>

### Dr. Charles Woods

“Towards Best Practicing for Podcasting in Rhetoric and Composition,” *Peitho*, Link:

<https://cfshrc.org/article/towards-best-practices-for-podcasting-in-rhetoric-and-composition/>