



2024

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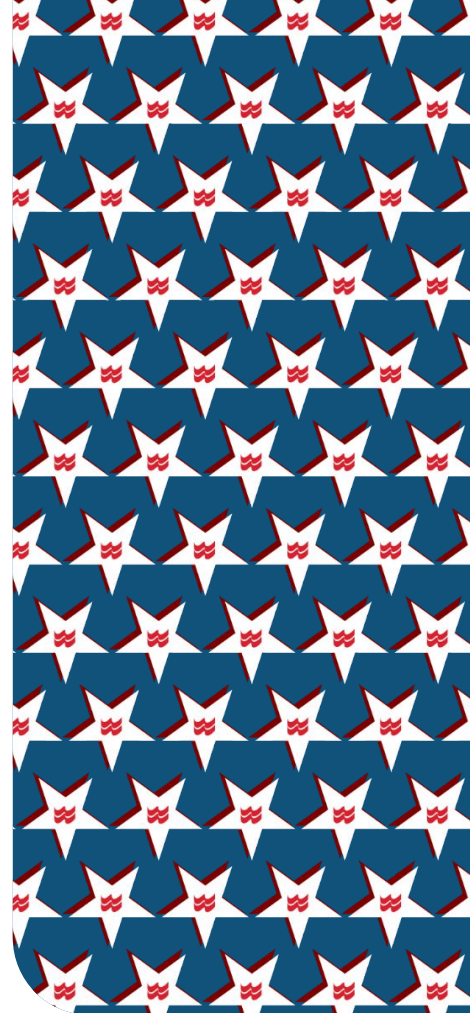
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# My AI Journey Thus Far

Jonathan Meer  
Texas A&M University



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# What I Teach

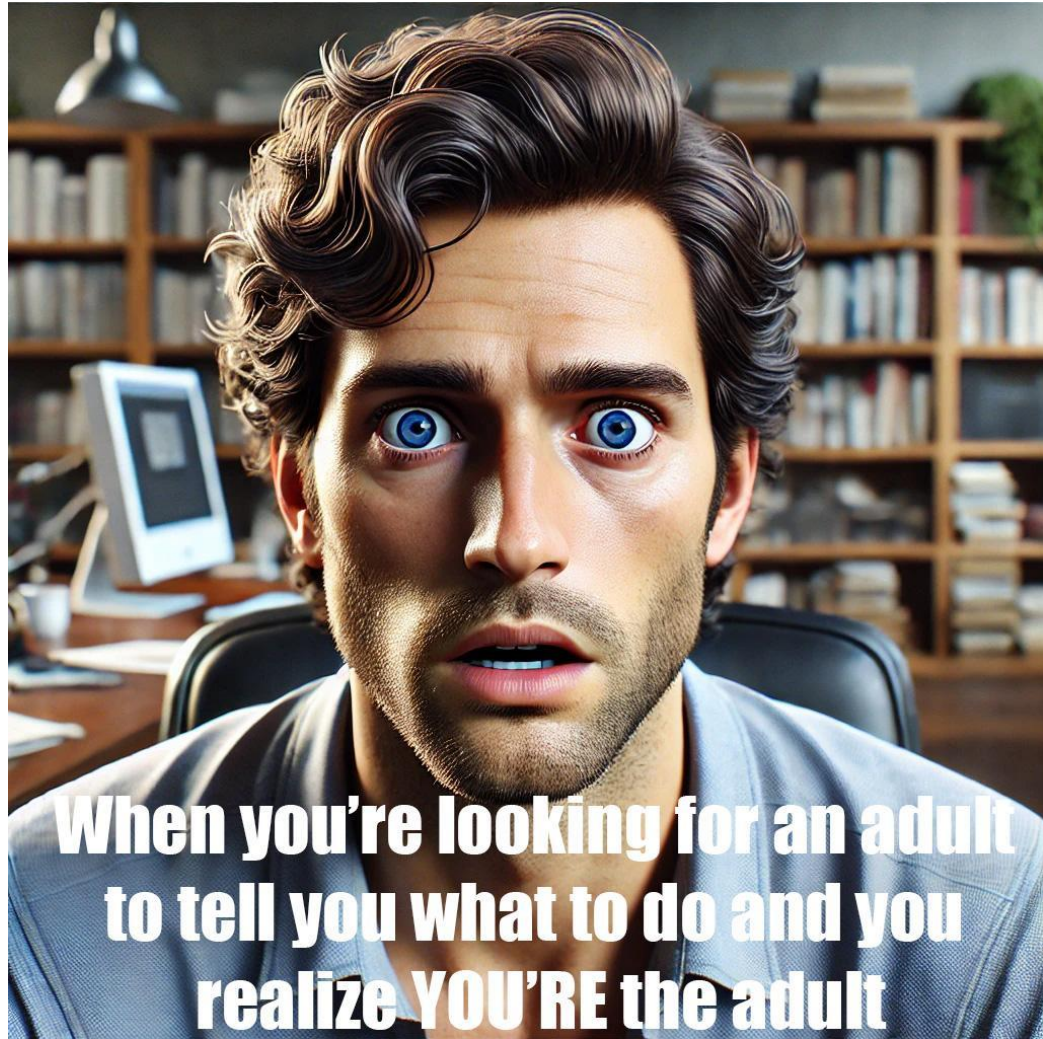
- ECON 202: Principles of Microeconomics
  - Large asynchronous online
  - Achieve
  - Packback forum
- ECON 328: Economics of Education
  - 50-70 students in-person
  - Written assignments and Packback

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**When you're looking for an adult  
to tell you what to do and you  
realize YOU'RE the adult**

# Did a Fourth Grader Write This? Or the New Chatbot?

Don't be surprised if you can't always tell. Neither could a fourth-grade teacher — or Judy Blume.

By **Claire Cain Miller, Adam Playford, Larry Buchanan and Aaron Krolik** Dec. 26, 2022

# Early Mistakes



Asked by [Jonathan Meer](#)

Instructor at Texas A&M University-College Station



- **AI deter**
  - **Spoiler:**
  - **MC > M**
- On the International Space Station, astronauts set up their own little economy by trading stuff based on personal preferences. For instance, they might swap food items—like one astronaut trading their freeze-dried strawberries for another's mac and cheese because they like it more. They also trade tasks; for example, if someone prefers doing experiments over maintenance work, they'll switch jobs with a crewmate who enjoys fixing things. This shows how everyone values things differently, and by trading, they all end up happier. Plus, it highlights how they specialize in what they're good at, making the whole team more efficient.

comparative advantage in a microeconomic setting.

advantage. very curious to hear your thoughts!



Source: <https://www.npr.org/2021/01/21/959199550/economics-in-space>

# Re-Assessing Economics of Education

## Where is the Best Place to Invest \$102,000 — In Stocks, Bonds, or a College Degree?

Michael Greenstone and Adam Looney  
June 25, 2011

Prompt the LLM to discuss the assumptions underlying the conclusions in the article. What must be true for Greenstone and Looney's conclusions to be logical? Label this section "Assumptions." Note: Depending on what mode you use and how you prompt it, the LLM can be **very** bad at this part of the assignment, and you are being graded on the quality of the entire answer. You will likely have to be thoughtful with follow-up prompts and make multiple attempts in different modes.

# What did they think?

It was really helpful to have a great way to integrate AI into the course. I think it really helped those and it is a great way to for the future.

I really appreciated the emphasis on LLMs as I did not use them or know too much about them before this class. Because of this class, I'll be using them more frequently in all aspects of my life for now on. Keep using it for assignments in this class. It made the assignments easier, if I had to open to their use in class and assignments mentioned that they were used.

**Just do the assignments myself I think they would have been a lot harder. That seems like the opposite of what a professor would want,**

**though?** I think integration was the writing assignments, and not what I was expecting, to test these tools out in class. This will be especially helpful in the debates.

future regardless of what we do and I appreciate being given the opportunity to work with them in a class setting. The LLM's were a great addition, and was the first time I ever interacted with an LLM the way we did this semester. It is a great tool that we should be encouraged to use, not stay away from.



# Is There An Answer?

- This battle is over
- Have to trust students (to some degree!)
- What are the long-run implications?

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# Q&A

