Meeting Notes - Vishwa Gandhi 8/18

Topic: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Benefits

- Designed to **assist learning** and simplify complex or repetitive tasks

- Can serve as an accessible resource for students who need extra academic support

- Provides opportunities for innovation across industries when used responsibly

- Core principle: AI should be used to **"assist, not replace"** human effort

Detriments

- Risk of **reduced creativity and independent thinking** when students over-rely on AI for solutions

- Raises significant concerns around **intellectual property (IP) law, copyright infringement, and the protection of original work**, particularly in the arts

- Threatens the **income and sustainability of creative professionals** (artists, writers, musicians) whose work is replicated or devalued by AI tools

- A recent **neurological study** demonstrated that frequent AI use in academic settings can **stunt brain growth**, particularly in areas tied to problem-solving, memory retention, and critical thinking

    - The study indicated that students who consistently relied on AI showed **weaker neural development** compared to peers who worked independently

    - Findings suggested a pattern of **"AI dependency"** that mirrors addictive behavior: students became accustomed to offloading thinking tasks to AI rather than engaging cognitively

    - This overreliance raises long-term concerns about **academic integrity, resilience, and overall mental development**

Slogan: *"Supplement, not detriment"*

Cases of Impact

- Federal government has begun using AI for drafting and reviewing **important documents**, raising concerns about accuracy and accountability in policy-making

- Schools across the U.S. are experimenting with AI tools such as *RevisionAssistant*, designed to help with student writing and revision, but in some cases, these tools have been used as a **substitute for direct teacher feedback**, diminishing student-teacher interaction

- 35 out of 50 states have already implemented or proposed **AI-related regulations** for both academic and professional contexts

Action Steps

- Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) could take proactive measures by adopting a **district-wide AI policy**, aligning with practices in the majority of U.S. states

- Policy areas to consider:

  - **Academic dishonesty prevention**: setting clear guidelines on what constitutes responsible AI use in coursework and assessments

  - **Safeguarding educator intervention**: ensuring AI does not replace teachers' role in providing mentorship, feedback, and classroom engagement

  - **Student wellness protections**: acknowledging research about AI's neurological impact and setting healthy boundaries for its use in schools

Potential Broader Topic Areas

1. **AI and Mental Health**

   - Cognitive development concerns: studies show AI reliance can **impair brain growth** and diminish problem-solving skills in developing students

- ○ Psychological risks: AI can foster **dependency and addictive behaviors**, mirroring patterns seen in social media usage

- ○ Emotional impact: students who overuse AI may develop **lower academic confidence** and heightened stress when asked to work without AI assistance

2. **AI and Social Media**

   - ○ Platforms are increasingly filled with **AI-generated content**, making it harder to distinguish real from fabricated information

   - ○ The internet faces an **overabundance of AI-produced media**, reducing the visibility and credibility of reputable sources

   - ○ Increased misinformation can harm public trust and polarize discourse

3. **AI in Education and Jobs**

   - ○ **Academic dishonesty**: plagiarism and AI-generated assignments compromise the integrity of education

   - ○ **Impact on teaching**: growing reliance on AI grading/revision systems reduces direct teacher-student interactions

   - ○ **Job market disruption**: surveys indicate a **majority of Americans fear job loss** to AI, reflecting real challenges in industries like customer service, logistics, journalism, and more

   - ○ Ethical concern: replacing human roles with AI challenges notions of dignity in work and long-term economic stability