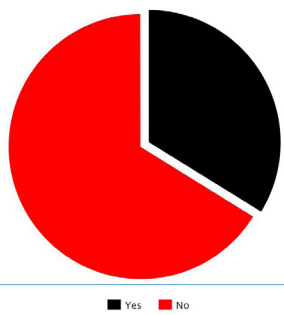


What's Your Opinion?

Was the \$1.3m buyout worth the massive loss to OU for the A-State football team?

Out of 278 responses:
Yes -- 94
No -- 184



Next Poll:

READING PREFERENCES

Do you prefer a physical copy of a book or an e-book?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on astatetheherald.com. Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

The case against A.I. in the classroom

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior CMP major from Jonesboro

Artificial Intelligence, a major plot device of countless sci-fi stories and films, has become an ever growing part of our real day-to-day lives.

One place in particular that A.I. is becoming more and more prevalent is in America's classrooms. Advocates for A.I. in the classroom claim that it has the unique ability to create personalized lesson plans for each individual student. That it is able to adapt to a student's personal learning styles and pinpoint the most helpful methods to get them the education they need, not just the education the instructor offers.

Detractors, like myself, argue that by

"If we allow Artificial Intelligence into our classrooms, we may never get them back."

allowing A.I. to take over the classroom, the human connection between teacher and student is lost and technology consumes yet another part of our lives. While A.I. may be able to craft personalized lesson plans for students, it cannot inquire about their home lives, their hopes and dreams, or give personalized advice that comes from shared experiences.

Teaching is one of the most human things that we are capable of doing as a species. An educated person imparting upon young people the knowledge that they have acquired through years of study and life experience. This goes far deeper than lesson plans and textbooks, it extends into life lessons and wisdom that can only be gained by growing older and living life.

Sure, A.I. is capable of scanning thousands of documents and summarizing them into bullet points for students to read, but they offer nothing

outside of that limited range. Teaching goes far deeper than whiteboards and homework assignments, but by putting that crucial element in the hands of technology, we risk losing that personal connection entirely.

Who is to say that by introducing A.I. into the classroom that we are not simply paving the way for teachers to no longer be needed. If A.I. can serve the primary educator role and we place no priority on the human connection between a teacher and their students then why would schools even bother hiring teachers at all?

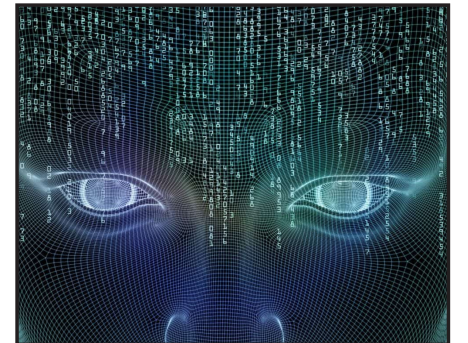
Some would argue that this is far fetched and would never come to fruition but if the past twenty years of technological advancement has shown us anything it is this: tech changes quickly. The Wright Brothers launched the first powered flight in 1903 and by 1969 we were landing men on the moon. If we fully integrate A.I. into all U.S classrooms by 2030, who can say what schools look like by 2050?

A.I. tools like ChatGPT have been introduced to the public and have already changed the way teachers plan assignments and curriculum. Students are beginning to use A.I. outside of class

to do assignments for them or simply as another tool to aid them with their coursework. If it is used sparingly, this can be very beneficial.

It is when we fully embrace this technology and allow it into the classroom that we set ourselves on a course of no return. We make landfall in a new country and burn the ships. The internet has forever changed our world and now there is no taking it back to what it once was before it.

If we introduce Artificial Intelligence into our classrooms, we may never get them back. But of course, that's just one man's opinion.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FUTURE OF LIFE INSTITUTE
Digital art interpretation of A.I.

The changing opinions on higher education

ANNA COX
COPY EDITOR



Anna Cox is a sophomore English and global studies major from Paragould.

Picture this, a young rosy checked 18-year-old goes into their first class of college, ready to party, make friends, and figure out who they are. Now imagine, as they are walking to class, in classic comedic style, a piano falls on their head and crushes them, this piano is student debt.

With the rise of tuition, cost of living and the plateau of low pay, people are left wondering, "Do I really need to go to college?"

The idea that a person has to go to college is a thing of the past. College used to be viewed as something that every individual needs to go through. The traditional mindset was one of going to college, graduating with a good degree, and then working hard and

earning your pension. In recent years however, it seems as if the views on this are changing.

The national college enrollment numbers have been on a steady decline. Results from a poll conducted by Statista showed that from the 2018-2019 academic year to the end of the 2021-2022 year there was a substantial decrease of 1.9 million enrolled students.

Although, one could argue that a smaller class size would help boost your academic career: allowing students to build stronger relationships with other classmates and professors, creating a better reputation for themselves on campus. The downside of this, however, is that lower enrollment rates could be viewed as a direct cause for rising tuition rates.

A study from Edge Research found that college age students when asked whether they wanted to attend a typical "4 year college or university" 48% of the testing pool responded that they were not interested, 40% responded that they were planning to attend and the remaining 12% indicated that they have completed or are in the process of completing a four year degree program.

According to this study, the primary reason for this hesitancy seems to be the monetary expense and mental stress that comes along with college.

Why would prospective students want to ruin their mental health, credit and suffer a long term consequence for a degree when they can find jobs without a degree requirement, paying near the same?

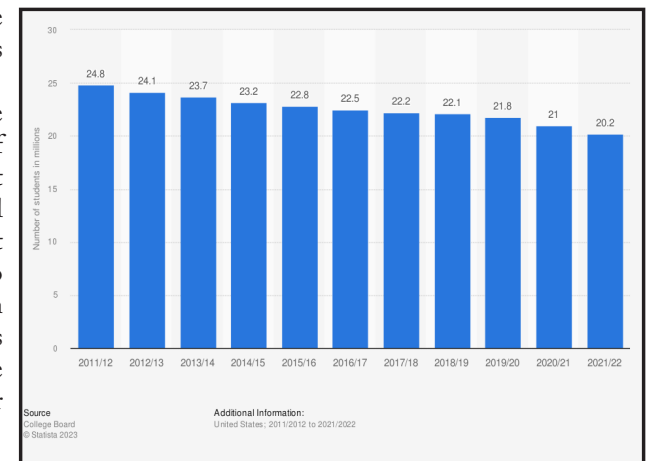
The biggest issue with academia in general is that the price does not outweigh the payback. The idea of working for years to pay off the tuition of a degree that got you a low-paying job is not attractive. The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics named construction, maintenance and transportation as some of the highest paying jobs that do not require a college degree. Zip Recruiter cited Jonesboro as a top place for construction workers in Arkansas, stating that the average income is \$49,064.

However, the issue with some of these jobs is that they are manual labor, which may not seem appealing to everyone. But, one can find technician jobs that do not require a college degree or certificate.

For example, an

Ophthalmic Medical Technician is a job that in Arkansas one would only need a high school degree or equivalent. Salary.com reported that as of Aug. 27, 2023, the median salary for an Ophthalmic Technician in Jonesboro was \$47,555.

Overall, it seems that the combination of rising prices, focus on mental wellness and better working opportunities has spurred students away from entering higher education. The idea of self care and wellness has become more and more popular online, leading more people to put their health over an education: especially when they are able to get a well paying job without it.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF STATISTA.COM
Decreasing college attendance rates between 2011 & 2022

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