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Sociological Debate Using AI

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Sociological Issue Debate using AI (ChatGPT)

Purpose: A sociological debate assignment that aims to cultivate critical thinking, research, communication, and empathy skills while providing students with a platform to explore and understand societal issues from a sociological perspective.

Learning Outcomes/Skills:

- Apply a sociological perspective to a controversial issue in sport.
- Analyze a controversial issue in sport that will enable you to make informed choices about your sport participation and the place of sports in your community and society.
- Defend your views about sports in a way that doesn't systematically disadvantage some categories of people as they privilege others.
- Recognize and engage in social justice when appropriate.

Assignment Description:

There are several controversial issues in sport (see list below). For this assignment you will pick a current issue and use AI (ChaptGPT) to debate.

For example:

- Should transgender athletes be required to compete in the category of their birth gender?
- Should contact sports with high rates of injury, like American football, be banned?
- Should female athletes receive equal pay and resources as their male counterparts?
- Should athletes be permitted to protest during the national anthem at sporting events?
- Should sport gambling be fully legalized and regulated?
- Should NFL players be suspended from play for criminal charges?
- Should the Chicago Blackhawks change their name?
- Should performance-enhancing drugs be allowed in professional sports?

About ChatGPT:

Description of ChatGPT, what AI does, it is not trustworthy, will only go with what's most predictable (might not be the most intelligent debate).

Could fact check what GPT does – one of their opinions.

ChaptGPT gives 3 or 5 reasons, can you find evidence to support or refute one of them.

In class example (video)

Assignment Steps/Tasks

1. Pick a current issue (phase it in the form of a “should” question).
2. Decide where you stand on the issue (the affirmative/pro or negative/against argument).
3. Give three strong and relevant points to support your claim.
4. Ask ChatGPT to “debate” your “should” question using a sociological perspective. For example: “Debate whether transgender athletes should be required to compete in the category of their birth using a sociological perspective.” Cut and paste the response from ChatGPT.
5. Compare your reasons to the ChatGPT reasons in support of your stance. Did you come up with the same arguments? How did you differ? Was there something new you didn’t think of?
6. Consider the reasons ChatGPT came up with for the counterargument. Refute at least one of them. A good format for refutation is “they say ...but ...because...therefore...” One academic article (peer-reviewed journal).
7. Reflection: Did your initial stand on the issue change? Why or why not? Did ChatGPT allow you to see the “other side” in ways you have not thought about? How did the research you did help you think about the answer GPT generated? Did you enjoy using ChatGPT for this purpose? What did you learn?

Rubric/Criteria for Success (weighting)

Criteria	Points		
	0	1	2
Debate topic	Did not complete	Has a question but not in “ should” format	Question in “should” format
Initial stance	Did not take an initial stance	Stance seems to waiver	Takes a clear stance
Reasons/evidence to support claim	Gives no reasons	Has reasons but no evidence	Has 3 reasons and 2 sources of evidence for each
ChatGPT comparison	Did not do a comparison	Comparison done but not thoughtful	Compares reasons with commentary
Refutation	Did not refute	Refute done but not thoughtful	Refute in format
Debate Reflection	Did not reflect	Answers some of the questions	Answers all of the questions
Assignment Reflection	Did not reflect	So-so reflection	Thoughtful reflection