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Stylin' and profilin'

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Role:

Learning Designer

Institution/organisation:

University of Washington

Context:

Higher education, Creative writing

Tool(s) used:

ChatGPT

My idea

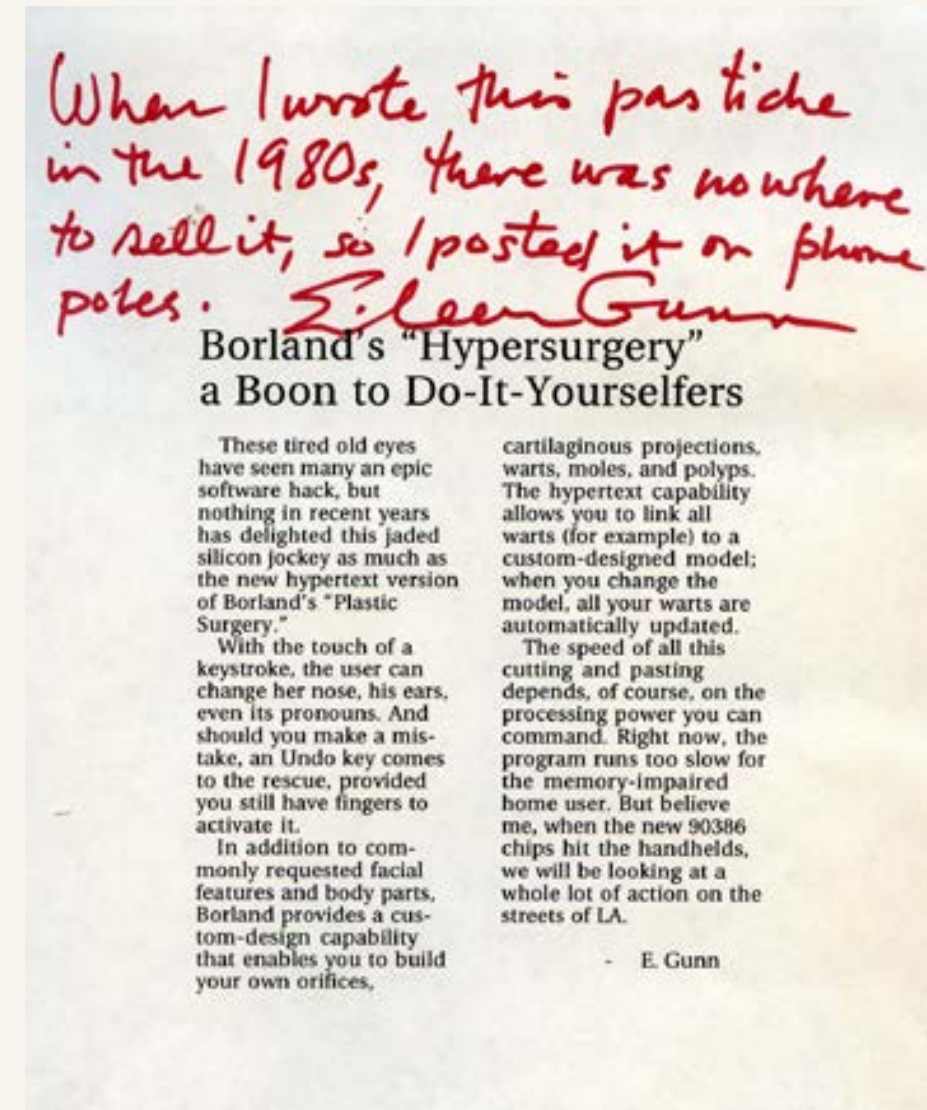
Use AI-generated text to delve into the specifics of literary styles by analyzing its approximation of different authors' writing. For example, asking the AI to generate some text in the style of Virginia Woolf, Cormac McCarthy, and David Foster Wallace.

What I aim to achieve

Als such as ChatGPT aren't "intelligent" in the way some people think. But it is (already) good at creating pastiche texts in the style of particular authors. Considering "why" the AI emulated the style (sentence formation, word selection, punctuation and grammar, etc.) as it did requires learners to undertake deeper consideration of the works of the authors in question to pinpoint style particulars, and where the parallels are found in the authors' work. It is at least as important to consider where ChatGPT gets things wrong.

Where the inspiration comes from

I've worked with faculty who teach writing and taught it myself. AI-generated builds on traditional compare/contrast/analysis by providing another layer for considering the construction and effects of writing style. There are many possibilities for building on this kind of activity, including using different genres, having students write in different styles, or even asking them to emulate what they think the AI might produce before asking it to do so.



A pastiche piece of hypertext software (Borland's "Plastic Surgery") with a note by the author, Eileen Gunn, that in the 1980s there was nowhere to sell the piece.

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